NEWS, PAGE 3





INTERVIEW, PAGE 13

Newspaper of the Year for photographs INDEP

Monday 11 May 1998 45p (IR 50p)

Four UK firms flew guns to Sierra Leone

By Fran Abrams and Brian Johnson-Thomas

FOUR British air companies shipped arms earlier this year regime in Sierra Leone inquiry, the Independent has learned.

Up to 150 tonnes of AK-47 rifles, 60mm mortars and ammunition are now believed tn have been flown into the region to help reinstate the Sierra Leone president, Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. Customs and Excise is expected to look into the roles of two air brokers and two airlines which are believed to have by Customs officers. But its partflown weapons to President owner Syed Naqvi said he was

Secretary, cancelled engage- the flight was legal. He is bements and closeted himself in the Foreign Office with senior work through a British broker Sir John Kerr. An aide to Mr advisers, the air of political cri- based outside London. Anothsis deepened. Mr Cook ap- er British operator and a second peared on television to repeat British broker are also believed his assertion that there had to have been involved, and are prejudiced. been no ministerial involve- expected to be interviewed by ment in the affair, while the firm of mercenaries involved issued a statement claiming it had not breached a UN arins embargo.

Previous information suggested that just one shipment, of 30 tonnes of arms, was flown in Sierra Leone on 12 March. after the military junta which overthrew the elected government in May 1997 had been nusted. It has now emerged that four earlier consignments were sent to President Kahbah, who was exiled in Guinea, during about Sandline's involvement.

The Section of the Control

an whom was a second

and the second

lieved that the first consignments of arms were flown from Berghaus in Bulgaria to Conakry in Guinea, possibly to overthrow the military stopping for refuelling in Algiers. Last night Customs and Excise sources said they were unsure whether supplying arms to the government-m-exile in Guinea hroke the UN embar-

go covering Sierra Leone.

which is based in London and has a single Liberian-registered Boeing 707 cargo plane, has admitted baving been interviewed unaware of the cargo and that As Robin Cook, the Foreign he had documentation to show lieved to have received the

> Yesterday Mr Cook continued to maintain that there was no ministerial involvement in the affair despite claims by the mercenary company Sandline that it had meetines with a number of Foreign Office officials and with the British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone. Peter Penfold. Mr Cook also denied newspaper reports yesterday that ministers in the Ministry of Defence knew

January and February. It is be- He said: "There was no policy to support any mercenary involvement to overturn the junta in Sierra Leone. We stood full-square by the UN resolution

... which imposed an arms embargo on Sierra Leone. That is the Government's policy and I would expect that government policy to be followed through by everyone." Mr Cook said any minister found to have know-Sky Air Cargo Services UK, ingly misled the House of Commons or adopted the wrong policy would resign.

It also emerged that Mr Cook had cut off contact with the Foreign Office officials under investigation after allegations that they met Sandline. Instead, be was receiving advice from his political team and from the Permanent Secretary, Cook said this was standard practice because of the risk that the investigation might be The Prime Minister's official

spokesman said: "While of course any deliberate breach of United Nations sanctions would be wrong, we can be absolutely robust in reminding people. that President Kahbah was toppled and had United Nations and Commonwealth opinion united in support of him. Indeed the Prime Minister specifically invited Kabbah to the Commonwealth Heads of government meeting in Edinburgh as

a way of signalling that: " Sandline denial, page 2



Ourselves together: Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams welcome Hugh Doherty, one of the Balcumbe Street gang

IRA men help Sinn Fein vote 'yes'

By David McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

scribed as: "One of the boldest, most daring decisions of our political lives", by opting for involvement in a new Northern

Ireland government. A special ard-fheis (conference) voted overwhelmingly in in the Guildford and Woolwich favour of changing the party's

decades-old constitution. The change came about with the blessing of a number of IRA icons, in particular four members of the Balcombe Street gang, who were given a rapturous reception by the conference

and were warmly embraced by Sinn Fein leaders such as Mr was always expected to back the Street unit, prisoners also ap-

in England. Their record in the mid-Seventies encompassed around 16 killings, including those of seven people who died

pub bombings of 1974. The vote clears the way fur Sinn Fein members, for the first time in their history, to take their seats in the new Belfast Assembly which is to be established un-

der the Good Friday agreement. It was also made clear that

Sinn Fein leaders Gerry Adams Adams and Mr McGuinness ex- agreement, the appearance of peared, released for the day, and Martin McGuinness. pected to be given seats in the the Balcombe Street four set the from other jails in both parts of SINN FEIN yesterday took. The four had been released new cross-party executive which occasion alight, personifying as Ireland. All made strong speechwhat one of its leaders de- for the day from an Irish jail will run the Assembly. Union- it did the fact that under the es in favour of the agreement. where they had recently been ists are expected to oppose transferred after serving 23 years such involvement, arguing that the IRA must first decommission its weaponry.

> After almost six hours of debate in Duhlin, 331 of the 350 delegates voted for changing the Sinn Fein constitution. The party also decided, by what was described as a vast majority, to call fur a "Yes" vote in the two referendums, north and south, which are to be held on the agreement on 22 May.

Although the conference

accord all prisoners are to be released within a two-year period. One Republican said of their welcome: "It wasn't a celebration of what they did. It was ... the sense that soldiers are coming home." One speaker said:

These men are our Mandelas." The policy shift overturns what was regarded as a cardinal principle of Republicanism. Sinn Fein executive member Jun Gibney described it as 'seismic, historic, a watershed".

In addition to the Balcombe

An attempted mortar attack on a police station in Northern Ireland was seen as an attempt by a dissident faction of the IRA to destabilise Sinn Fein's involvement in the peace process. The attack aimed at the RUC station at Belleek, Country Fermanagh, came the night before Sinn Fein's conference in Dublin yesterday to ratify the Stormont agreement. The missile missed its target and no one was injured.

Duhlin debate, page 6

Leading article, page 14



Problem sites: The Brent Spar

Government wants right to dump 60 oil platforms in North Sea

By Michael McCarthy Environment Correspondent

THE Government is seeking the option of dumping more than 60 nil platforms in the North Sea when they come to the end of their natural lives, despite the international protests provoked by the attempt to dump the giant oil storage huoy Brent Spar.

Its stance is likely to re-ignite the protests and provide Labour with one of its thorniest public-relations problems since taking office, especially as Michael Meacher, the environment minister, promised the Labour party conference last October: "There will be no more Brent Spars under Labour."

Greenpeace, which forced Shell, Brent Spar's operators, into a dramatic U-turn in 1995 with its campaign of occupying the installation and organising Europe-wide petrol boycotts, said was "totally unacceptable."

Simon Reddy, the group's decommisioning campaigner, said: "This policy means there will be over 60 potential Brent Spars under Labour. So much for their promises. This is folly, and if the Government does this it will be dramatically at odds with international public opinion."

The vast majurity of European countries want a permanent ban on dumping any disused oil installations

However, in compliance with the wishes of the British oil industry, the Government is striving to keep a major loophole in the treaty to be signed m July which will prohibit dumping and insist that platforms be dismantled and brought ashore.

It wants a get-out clause for the biggest steel platforms, those in more than 75 metres of water and weighing

yesterday the Government's move more than 4,000 tonnes. The oil industry argues that dismantling some nf these giant installations may be too technnlngically difficult, too dangerous, and - not least - ton expensive, and, in some cases, a better option would be to topple them over where

they stand, on to the sea bed.

"We need to look at large deep-water installations on a case-by-case basis, so that the solution takes account nf safety and also of cost and economic impact," said James May, Director-General of the UK Offshore Operators Association (UKOOA), the body that represents Britain's North Sea oil companies. Bringing a large platform ashore and dismantling it could cost "tens of millions of pounds," Mr May

There are 64 such installations in United Kingdom waters, most nf which will come to the end of their natural lives between 2010 and 2020.

Astra with which it will compete.

"swerved around" jokes like:

A. "A skip."

Mr Kelly said he did not

Q. "What do you call an

The Government is actively pressing for the loophule and officials will try and secure it at a three-day preliminary meeting, beginning in London tomorrow, of the OSPAR convention for the protection of the marine environment of the north-east

Britain is supported in its stance by Norway, whose companies own most of the other large steel platforms in the North Sea. However, it is being upposed by the other thirteen parties to the convention, which include Germany, France and most of the countries of western Europe. They argue that what has been installed must be capable of being dismantled and that the techniques are, or soon will be, available.

Brent Spar was the first large North Sea nil installation up for disposal. Shell are proposing turning it into a ferry terminal in a Norwegian fjord.

STOP making THINK 47% 66% ntiard base rates for 1 minute call including VAT. BT now charge up to three times more than First Telecom fo if you don't want to pay those prices, just and First Telecom's

Skoda offers to revolutionise the Rolls-Royce image

By Michael Harrison

SKODA Cars, once the butt of every motoring joke, is offering to give Rolls-Royce tips on how to brush up its image and improve its production techniques. The offer has come from the



UK chief of Skoda, which will be part of the same stable of marques as Rolls-Royce if Volkswagen's £430m bid for the hixury car maker goes through. VW took control of Skoda in 1991.

Dermot Kelly, director of Skoda UK, said: "We were once known as the brand from hell but we have succeeded in changing... and can teach Rolls Royce something. The weakness with Rolls is its hrand. It has a very powerful name but it has failed to develop it properly."

He said that whereas other could learn from the revolu- Octavia is being launched in the hixury goods groups such as Dior, Chanel and Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton had suc-

brand, Rolls had not. Mr Kelly said that ultimately there was no reason why it could not be extended to other precision-engineered products such as luxury fountain pens. "That is what brand management is about. Developing the brand without diluting it."

tionary production techniques UK next month priced at Skoda is pioneering in its new £11,500 - some £3,500 less than state-of-the art factory north of the Ford Mondeo and Vauxhall ceeded in developing their Prague in the Czech republic. Mr Kelly said the company

have a favourite Skoda joke. He had come a long way since the rear-engined Skoda Estelle was hranded "the worst car in Britain" by What Car magazine open-top Skoda?"

This year Skoda plans to sell But he admitted that the 25,000 cars in the UK - almost company did keep a scrapbook double its sales total in 1996. A of the more memorable ones to Mr Kelly also said Rolls new version of the Skoda remind itself of the bad old days.

Virgin flotation

RICHARD Branson is planning to float parts of his Virgin empire on the stock Page 18

Bugging fever

MORE people are using bugging devices to catch employees and colleagues who make derogatory remarks. Page 5

Passport forgery

THE maroon British passport is to be scrapped because it is too easy to forge.Page 2

INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 . CROSSWORDS, P20 AND EYE P10 . TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P12 . FULL CONTENTS, P2

Today's news service to your existing BT phone by calling the number below. You can open an account any time, any day and start saving on calls to over 200 countries. So, before you make another international FIRST TELECOM 0800 458 0004 Lines open 24 hours www.first-telecom.com

Forgers force redesign of new-look passports

By ian Burrell Home Affairs Correspondent

THE EU-approved maroon British passport must be scrapped and redesigned because it is forged too easily by immigration racketeers.

Home Office officials have been dismayed by the large numbers of people attempting to enter the country on doctored UK passports which are regarded within the immigration service as "rubbish". The Government has now or-

dered the Passport Agency to revert to a format similar to that of the old black passport, where the photograph and personal details of the hearer appear on an inside page.

The current design allows forgers to cut into the thick back page and replace the photograph leaving minimal signs of tampering. The racketeers have also discovered that they can remove the upper laminate by drying it out in a freezer, peeling it back and making alterations to the photograph and details.

making it much harder for criminals to tamper with the thin paper without leaving obvious signs of forgery.

The British passports are high on a shopping list of international travel documents identified by organised crime groups as easy to obtain or to doctor for use in the trafficking of immigrants.

Large numbers of passports purporting to have been issued by the little-known Republic of the Mar-

By reverting to the inside-page shall Islands - a former American format, officials believe they are dependency in the Pacific - have been sold by racketeers, who are offering packages priced at between £3,000 and £5,000 a head to heat immigration controls.

Large numbers of blank Italian identity cards have been stolen and sold into the hands of organised crime, while the security leatures on French ID cards have now been defeated by sophisticated forgers.

But increasingly immigration officials are having to deal with peo-

ple - mostly from Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and China - who arrive at passport control without any documents at all. In some cases, people seeking asylum are refusing to even say which airline they arrived on. As a result, mobile surveillance teams of immigration officers are being deployed at Heathrow Airport to look for passengers destroying their papers in airport corridors or

The use of closed-circuit television cameras to observe passengers

on transfer buses.

as they come off aircraft is being pithat those arriving without an iden-tity can be traced back to the airline they flew with.

People attempting to enter the country illegally are using increasingly elaborate routes to disguise their country of origin. Dozens of Tamils from Sri Lanka, have arrived on flights from Turkmenistan in the former USSR and from Majorca.

The increased use of CCTV is one of many developments being

considered as part of a compreloted and is likely to be extended so hensive review of the asylum process, which is expected to be completed by the end of the summer.

Officials recognise that the system is in real difficulty and in need of major reform. The welfare system for asylum-seekers in particular is seen as unsatisfactory and expensive.

There is also a backlug of 50,000 asylum cases, with a further 20.000 awaiting appeal. Applications have fallen from 44,000 in 1995 to just over 32,000 last year.

Labour

accused

of hiding

truth on

tax rises

A TREASURY analysis of the

family tax burden, so effective

ly used by Labour against the

Tories for the last 17 years, has

been ditched by the Govern?

The decision, which has not

been announced, was disco-

cred by Malcolm Bruce, the Li

eral Democrat spokesman, wi-

last night condemned the act

"For years, Labour has be

as a disgraceful cover-up.

using these figures on the

about tax rises.

burden to expose the trud

"Now, with Labour in pow

er, Gordon Brown has decided

that he doesn't want to be

judged by the yardsticks which

he applied in the Tories, so in-

stead of tackling the underlying

issues, he has just abolished the

family tax burdens was so use-

ful for MPs and academics that

the House of Commons library

even based one of its regular re-

search papers on the Treasury

Ironically, the first time the

question was put in its most in-

formation-grabbing form was in

ting direct taxes and switching

the hurden on to indirect tax-

The historical analysis of

statistics themselves.

By Anthony Bevins

TOMORROW

■ Talk of the Town:



Lillian Ross scandalises Manhattan with her New Yorker revelations

My Back Pages: Jeff Bezos and his online Amazon bookstore the Internet's greatest success story

■ Scandal of the lens merchants: How buying cheap contact lens can ruin your eyesight

The Sierra Leone affair: was there a legal loophole?

Sandline: 'We didn't breach embargo'

Political Correspondent

A SHIPMENT of weapons to the exiled president of Sierra Leone did not breach UN sanctions, the firm of mercenaries states prevent their companies at the centre of the affair and nationals from supplying claimed yesterday.

Sandline International, which is under investigation by support for Ahmad Tejan Kabbah was perfectly legal.

Only the military junta which overthrew the country's 1997, was blocked by a UN resolution, it said.

The company produced extracts from the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (CHOGM) in Edinhurgh last September, from a Foreign Office bulletin in January and from a Parliamentary speech by the Foreign Office minister Tony Lloyd, saying all three showed the UN did not wish sanctions to refer to President Kabhah.

documents indicated the clear understanding of the United Nations' position was that sancjunta and not the democratically elected government.

while Sandline might be able to arque its case in court if necessary, Resolution 1132 did not mention either side specifically. It simply demanded that all arms to Sierra Leone.

But UN sources said that

Although simultaneous embargoes on fuel and on travel Customs and Excise, claimed its by the junta were hedged with possible exceptions, the arms

Sandline quotes a CHOGM communiqué as saying: "Heads elected government in May of government welcomed UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1132 imposing petroleum, weapons and travel sanctions on the military Junta in Sierra Leone."

The Foreign Office daily bulletin on January 9 said: "Britain has taken a leading role in the international community's efforts... contributing to the drafting of UNSCR 1132. which imposed sanctions against the junta.

Speaking in the House of The company said all three Commons on 12 March, Mr Lloyd said Britain was instrumental in drawing up the resolution "which imposed tions referred to the military sanctions on the military junta".

The resolution supported a peace agreement which was

stitutional rule through peaceful means, and expressed grave concern at the continued violence and loss of life following

It also added that the situation in Sierra Leone posed a threat to international peace and security in the region.

It said: "All states shall prevent the sale or supply to Sierra Leone by their nationals or from their territories or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of petroleum and petroleum products and arms and related matériel of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment. paramilitary equipment and spare... whether or not originating in their territory."

·The October 1997 resolution also prevented travel by members of the military junta and their families, though this could be authorised by a special committee set up to oversee its implementation.

The import of fuel could also be approved by the committee. It added that all states should "act in strict conformity" with the resolution, regardless of any contracts or



licences entered into before its If you can't take the heat ... Robin Cook enjoying the sunshine while working yesterday at his official London residence, Carlton Terrace

GUNS TO AFRICA: WHO'S WHO IN THE SCANDAL THAT IS ROCKING THE FOREIGN OFFICE

Home news 8-10

Foreign news 12 13 Science Features Leader & letters Comment Shares 18,19 Business The Back Page Sports Tabloid Sport Media Media Tabloid Crosswords 20 & The Eye 10 TV & radio The Eye, 11,12





Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer

Former Scots Guard officer who served in the Gulf and in Bosnia, where he was spokesman for the British Army, Spicer is chief executive of Sandline International, the "military consultant" that allegedly colluded with British diplomats to restore Sierra Leone's ousted government. Nicknamed Tumbledown Tim during the Falklands, he was arrested on Bougainville last year during an abortive mission to crush rebels for the Papua New Guinea government.

distant



Rakesh Saxena

An Indian-born Thai banker, Saxena initially brokered the deal between Sandline and Kabbah, and financed the counter-coup operation with £1 m. Saxena, who is on bail in Canada for an alleged £55m fraud in Thailand, wanted to protect his diamond mining interests in Sierra Leone which were threatened by the political instability. He agreed to underwrite two shipments of arms, and to pay for Sandline's services.



Peter Penfold

The British High Commissioner in Sierra Leone, Penfold is said to be a "diplomat of the old school". A former governor of the British Virgin Islands, he is a familiar sight in Freetown, in his white linen suit and battered Bentley. Penfold became Ahmad Kabbah in Conakry and is viewed as a national hero in Sierra Leone because of his part in restoring Kabbah's government. Clarence Roy-Macaulay, a Freetown Penfold is a darling."



Major Johnny Paul

Koroma Koroma led the rebels involved in the bloody coup that ousted Kabbah. Sandhurst graduate turned mutinous army officer, Koroma proved a ruthless dictator close friends with President responsible for hundreds of deaths during his ten months in power. He ignored a warning by Britain before the counter-coup last March to "get out while the journalist, said recently. "Mr possibility of doing so peacefully remains".



Tony Lloyd

Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth affairs. Mild-mannered Lloyd denies that he was the political lynchpin in the deal to restore Kabbah to power and that he approved the counter-coup operation. He probably regrets his overhasty dismissal of newspaper reports of links between Penfold and the mercenaries as "Ill informed and scurrilous". A former lecturer, Lloyd gave evidence about exile "wringing his hands the affair to a Commons se- and not taking action", lect committee which he waiting for others to renow admirs was "mistaken". turn him to power.



President Ahmad

Elected president in multi-party elections in 1996, Kabbah was ousted in a coup led by at Oxfam. Foreign Office officials Johnny Paul Koroma in May 1997. He spent his exile in Conakry, capital of neighbouring Guinea, where the British diplomatic mission led by Peter Penfold had also transferred. One source said he spent his time h



Ann Grant, head of the Africa (Equatorial) desk at the Foreign Office, former director of communications

John Everard, Murray's pre decessor in the job. Linda St Cook, desk officer for Sierra Leone.

The mandarins

named by Sandline as taking part in meetings: Craig Murray, deputy head of the Africa (Equatorial)

Tim Andrews, official with

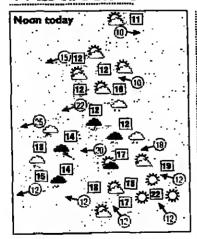
to publishing information which it would rather just brush responsibility for Sierra Leone, Gambia and Liberia. | under the carpet."

1981 when Jack Straw, now Home Secretary, asked for a breakdown of income tax, national insurance contributions value added tax, other indirect taxes, and local council taxes as applied to average family samples, with and without children, on various fractions and multiples of average carnings. Because the Tories were cut-

es. Mr Straw's questions - and subsequent update requests down the years from Labour frontbenchers like Michael Meacher, Harriet Harman and Alistair Darling - allowed Labour to puncture Tory claims

that they were cutting the tax hurden on families, when it was clearly going up. Mr Bruce said: "This is an abuse of power from a government which talks a good deal about openness and transparency, but practises an awful lot of evasion when it come

WEATHER



Scotland will dawn fine with sunny spelts in most parts but rain will move into southern parts by the end of the morning and this will slowly edge into central Scotland during the afternoon Most of Northern tretand will start dry and cloudy but rain will soon break out and this will turn heavy and possibly thundery at times. It will also be cloudy with rain in northern England. Remaining parts of England and Wales will have a very warm day with sunny spells.

Outlook for the next few days High pressure will extend west out of Scandinavia. This will leave the LIK in an easterly airstream with settled weather for the coming week. However, Scotland will have rain at first tomorrow, Then most places will be very warm with sunny periods, but the high temperatures will set off isolated thundery downpours. Counties bordering the North Sea will often be cloudy in the cool easterly winds.

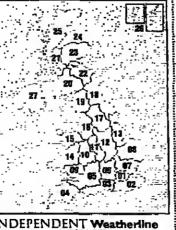
British Isles weather most recent avariable bigore at noon local flave C.cloudy: Cl.olean, F.tain; Fg.log: Ha,hazar; M.mist; P.Lrain;

C 1559 Gunresey Ayr Sultest C 1254 Isles of ScittyC 1355 Sh 1355 Blackpool F 1559 Liverpool C 1457 Bournemonth F 2170 London Bowcastin Cardiff Brigge Scarbaronab C 1050 Dubila Bouthn maten 2170 17 63 Sterenway

Air quality

C 1559 Yerk

Out and about with AA Roadw



INDEPENDENT Weatherline for the latest torscasts deal 19891 5009 befores by the London Liverpool Avormouth Hull (Albert Dock) Greenock Dun Laoghake 14:57 7.0 00:22 9.1 20:18 12:7 19:24 8.4 13:27 3.0 '00:35 3.5 125 8.3 3.1 3.8 08 00

07:09 01:28 12:27 Lighting-up times Sun & moon 21 16 to 05.24 21 16 10 05.24 20 56 10 05 17 20 49 10 05 24 21 15 10 05 14 20 40 10 05 14 20 55 10 05 14



perth-east and intensity. Com-plex lows 5 and I will edge northwards.



HARTSTON WEATHER WISE

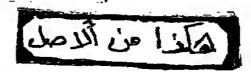
ONE OF last week's worst natural disasters was caused by an unusual phenomenon. In the Philippines last Thursday, at least 17 people were spray forms in a rising ring killed when a waterspout ripped a ferry in two on a lake.

Waterspouts begin with warm air at sea level and a rapid decrease in temperature with height, which is most likely around noon. They begin when air just above the surface of the water is warmed and rises. The resulting decrease in pressure causes cooler surrounding air to spiral in ferry passengers learnt to their

to replace the rising warm air. This is turn is warmed by the water and rises, to be replaced by more cooler air. The wind spiralling in during the process causes an eddy to form in the water.

Meanwhile, the water vapour in the warm rising air soon reaches its condensation point and the spiralling system is imbued with more energy thanks to the latent heat of condensation. The effect becomes like that of water rushing down a plughole, except that in this case it is the energy of the air spiralling upwards which sucks the water upwards with it. And the constant supply of energy makes it spiral faster and faster. Soon a dense cascade of sea

around the original eddy. The rising vortex looks just like a tomado. Only this one grew from the bottom up. It will collapse only when the influx of warm air into the vortex finally weakens, which is usually between 10 and 15 minutes alter it began. In those few minutes, a waterspout can du a great deal of damage, as the Filipino



noon

today

Harman in 'Full Monty' bid to lure women into work

By David Walker Social Policy Editor

HARRIET HARMAN, Secretary of State for Social Security and minister for women, tried to recruit Full Monty director Peter Cattaneo in make a series of hard-hitting television advertisements in which real womeo sound off about their lack of resources, and the failure of former husbands and lovers to maintain their children.

It is understood the tight timetable for making the advertisements, due to be shown oo national televisinn from I Juoe, ruled out Mr Cattaneo, the hero of whose award-winning film turns to stripping in order to pay his share of his soo's maintenance.

The advertisements - likely to cause controversy due in their geouine anger of many womeo about meo - are now being produced by advertising agents Bates Dorland.

They form part of a £2m campaign which aims to persuade inne mothers to take up the counselling and training opportunities in the Government's "oew deal" for looe parents. The oew deal was launched in eight pilnt areas in July 1997 and has been available to all looe parents making oew Income Support claims from the beginning of April. The programme will be available to all lone parents oo Income Support

from October. In ooe advertisement, a being left stranded with childreo. A voiceover tells how her life became easier thanks to troduced. the government initiative.

Fathers' rights groups may take issue with the advertisecriticism of the Government's own Child Support Agency, which is supposed to be ensuring that absent fathers make a proper cootribution to their children's upbringing.

The advertisements, on radio as well as television, will be followed up next month by a letter addressed to 500,000 lone muthers with children aged five and ulder detailing the ways in which they would be better off in work. Ms Harman -- cooscinus of how official documents put people off -- has insisted that the mailshot is "woman-friendly".

Entitled "Working Benefits", the Department of Social Security campaign is intended to persuade the unemployed that there is now a great array nf "in work" henefits and support for childcare. Research has shown that getting a job is a key to escaping hardship but also that people are deepty ig-"realistic" tooe reflecting the norant about beoefits, especially Family Credit which is paid as supplementary income to those in low-paid jobs.

The Government recently annouoced that recipieots of Family Credit could spend more on childcare without seeing their benefit reduced; next year a tax credit for all parents with young child is introduced. A National Childcare Strategy will be introduced by the Department for Education and Employmeot in a fortnight.

Work done for the Department of Social Security by market researchers Cronk Dromgoole found that many people - especially lone mothers - have no idea about the arwoman bemoans her fate after ray of reot and childcare benefits at present available, let alone those now being in-

This finding convinced Ms Harman that "realistic womanto-woman" advertising would work best though the department has found it politically expedient to tune down some of



Biblical emotions: Israel's Eurovision song contest winner Dana International in Birmingham yesterday celebrating her victory which has put trans-sexuals back in the headlines, previously occupied by (right, from top) the model and actress Tula, the Sixties model April Ashley, and the writer and journalist Jan Morris

Main photograph: Ben Head/MAM?

Trans-sexual's Eurovision win has divine appeal

By Patrick Cockburn in Jerusalem

and Clare Garner

THE triumph of Dana Ioternational, trans-sexual Israeli winner of this year's Eurovisioo Snng Cootest, sparked emotions of biblical proportions yesterday. The young and open-minded celebrated a oew diva, while the singer herself claimed divine inspiration. Back home, disgusted ultra-Orthodox Jews expressed the opposite view.

Party, labelled Ms Ioternational "a gimmick", saying that the fielding of a trans-sexual star was "a sign of the bankruptcy of Israeli song". And he added: "God is against this phenomenon. It's a sickness you must

cure and not give legitimacy."

ago, begged to differ.

She said her victory proved

that "God is with me", and it weot to show that "the whole world is open-minded and liberated - we are all equal". Dana International's win in Birmingham oo Saturday night

represents a double victory: one country has won the contest --Rabbi Shlomo Ben-Izri, a take the kitsch crown in the mean I do oot helieve in God Rabbi Jooathan Romain,

of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain, was quick to defend her. "Dana International's sexuality is totally irrelevant to her ability to sing well or perform on behalf of her country, just as anybody else's sexuali-

Yaron Cohen before a sex- their professional life unless it resents "freedom, democracy al therefore cannot many a per- to San Diego, California, where change operation five years interferes with their work," he and the right to live how indi-

The singer wore a sparkling dress designed by Jean Paul Gaultier to deliver her performance of "Diva", ("Viva to the diva, Viva Victoria, Cleopatra, Ha-a-a-a"), already a hit in Israel. At a press conference afterwards, she said: "I want to for Israel - it is the first time send a message to the Jewish in more than 20 years that the community and say to them: 'Try to accept me, my kind of and another for trans-sexuals: life and the choice I have she is the first trans-sexual to made. What I am does not

> the Jewish people." She added optimistically: "It proves that it does oot matter what you are - if you work hard and put in the best performance you can, you will be successful."

The 26-year-old singer be-The statuesque hrunette, ty should have no bearing on lieves that for many she rep-

viduals want to live". Israel, she feels, has come a lung way in the five years since her sex change - an operation in Loodoo which was "just like buy-

ing clothes". Attitudes towards trans-sexuals in Britaio are slow to change. Last year, it emerged that Dr Rachel Padman, a fellow at Newnham College, the last all-womeo's college at Cambridge University, had had. a sex change 15 years earlier. Leading fellows were up in arms, including the feminist ausigning over the issue.

Legally speaking, trans-sexuals can change their physical appearance but not their sex, as determined by their chromosomes and set down in their she found herself hattling

soo of their birth sex, as Caroline Cossey, who had a sex change at 20 and went on to become the top model Tula and appear in a James Bond movie. found out to her cost.

She lost a six-year fight to change her birth certificate from male to female in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, Eveotually, in 1992, she married in Montreal, where it is legal for a transsexual to marry.

Britain's most famous trans-sexthor Germaine Greer, who el in the Sixties before anyone was said to have considered re- knew her secret, married into to raise the issue of sex changes the peerage and was accepted from ill-informed conjecture as a beautiful and entertaining

But wheo her secret came out and her marriage ended, birth certificate. A trans-sexu- against prejudice. She moved

she has lived ever since, coodemned "to being a freak who lives io exile".

The author Jan Murris, who documented her sex chaoge io her book, Conundrum, published in 1974, has perhaps dooe more than anyooc to win the public round. Formerly James Morris, the hugely respected author of such standard works as Venice and Pax Britannica, he/she suffered years of torment culminating in a sur-

April Ashley, 62, is ooe of geoo's clinic in Casahlanca. Her sensitively written account of the gradual process of becoming a woman did much and smutty asides to serious debate. She now lives in Wales with her former wife, Elizabeth, a woman she says she would "trust to the grave".

Leading article, page 14

Airlines turn up heat on drunk passengers

By Mark Childs

5 10.47

100

IN A move which could prove equally alarming to over-stressed businessmen and members of hard-drinking rock bands, the government announced yesterday that drunken airline passengers could end up spending two years in iail.

The stringent new penalties, announced by the Civil Aviation Authority yesterday, include fines of up to £5,000 as well as a jail sentence. They are designed to reduce drink-fuelled violence on planes after a fourfold rise in the oumber of disruptive passengers who have been taken off aircraft in the last

Anyone planning to fly will . he handed a CAA leaflet by their umpleasant incidents."

travel agent, warning them of the new penalties if they attempt to board flights when drunk, or become unruly while on board aircraft. The leaflet, Travelling Safely, will warn passengers they are likely to be refused permission to board an aircraft if they arrive at the airport drunk, and that they could have to pay for a oew ticket home once they have sobered up.

A spokesman for the CAA said: "There is no doubt there is a problem with mid-air drunkenness and it presents unacceptable dangers to the crew and passengers. We hope that by pointing out to passengers the way they can avoid trouble - and the consequences if they don't -we can reduce the oumber of

Although the rock band Oasis added to their notoriety through in-flight misbehaviour, an equally widely publicised incident of bad conduct in the skies occurred only last week. A drunken 33-year-old businessman from Nuttingham went oo a rampage on a BA jumbo jet flying from Londoo to Florida. He threatened to kill the pilot and headbatt a passenger, as well as indeceptly

assaulting a stewardess. Many of the alcohol related problems witnessed by airlines are caused by the heady comhinatioo of complimentary. drinks, nervousness and the fact that pressurised cabins mean that drink can be up to than on the ground.



three times more intoxicating Liam Gallagher: The Oasis singer gained added notoriety with his recent rock-star airborne misbehaviour

Call for dental tests to fix date of Bormann's death

believe that Martin Bormann ings added after 1945, implying sis the family should not destroy may have survived the Second that Bormann had survived the World War have written in the war. top Nazi's family, pleading with them not to destroy his remains, it emerged yesterday.

They fear that the surviving children of Hitler's right-hand man may have already cremated Bormann's skull, after the results of DNA tests which last week proved it was his. They accept that the skull,

which was found on a Berlin huilding site io 1972, is Bormann's. But they insist that further tests must be done on the teeth and on the earth the skull was encased in to establish when and where he died.

Author Milton Shulman, a wartime member of Canadian intelligence, said that an earlier dental examination suggest-

yellow, sandy soil typical of report, too? Berlin, the skull was covered to that of the Ita region of Paraguay, where he is rumoured

Duff Hart-Davis and television producer Bridget Winter wrote to the Bormann family lawyer, Florian Besold, last Friday, requesting that the skull be subiected to independent dental checks, Mr Shulman said.

family not to destroy the skull hurriedly, but I suspect that they being cremated and the ashes have already cremated it. There scattered at sea, as the family is serious concern about the wished.

CONSPIRACY theorists who ed the skull had had eight fill- skull, and on any reasonable bait. They have gone in the trouble of DNA tests, so why oot Despite being found in the have an independent dentist's

> There is an argument that with thick red clay comparable it is in the family's interest for him to have died in 1945, because legally he did not become tn bave died in 1959, he added. a war criminal until the decision Solicitors representing Mr of the Nuremburg tribunal in Shulman, military historian 1946. He was fantastically wealthy, and if he died after being condemned as a war criminal, then any of his assets which survive could be confiscated."

The remains found in 1972 are understood in be in the possession of the Bormanns, and He said: "We are asking the Mr Shulman said there was now nothing to prevent them

MS sufferers denied costly 'wonder drug'

By Diana Blamires

A NEW "wonder drug" for ance, pressure on hospitals and multiple sclerosis has been health authorities to provide lamiched in Britain amid re-treatment for this disabling disnewed controversy over health- ease is likely to increase. service rationing.

is the latest in a new generation of treatments for patients who suffer chronic relapses of multiple sclerosis (MS).

Like other drugs of this type it is expensive - costing about £9500 a year per patient. MS experts have said that they feared many of the 8-10,000 paeiests who could benefit from the drug will be denied it because of the cost. Only about one-tenth of that number are the two other drugs available. to reduce the seventy of re-

expected to make an appear-

About 100,000 people in The drug, interferon beta-la, Britain suffer from MS, a disease of the central nervous system which causes oumbness, pins and needles, tremors and paralysis. There is no cure, but a particular form of MS characterised by interspersed remissions and relapses and affecting up to 10,000 people is

In trials the drug, self-administered by under-the-skin injection, has been shown to cut the number of relapses sufone-tenth of that number are the manner of the body's minning system times of the disease cost social ser- on itself, perceiving the myeling said to be now receiving one of fered by patients by one-third, the treatment of MS. The tri- available to all who are pre-

riods of remission.

neurology at Guy's Hospital in tients with this type of MS." south London, and one of the leading scientists involved in the of the Multiple Scienosis Society, trials, believes the drug's effect said: "People with MS are still

With two more drugs soon lapses, and to prolong the pe- benefit. I think it should per- fund them at all. The situation can help many sufferers consuade the health authorities to is unfair and unacceptable." Richard Hughes, professor of make the drug available for pa-

Peter Cardy, chief executive

People with MS still face a postcode lottery on new treatments. The situation is unfair and unacceptable.

tiveness strengthens the case for facing a postcode lottery oo more spending on MS treatment new drug treatments and services

we are seeing a breakthrough in thorities make the new drugs

He said: "For the first time generally. While some health auals show conclusive evidence of scribed them, some refuse to vices and the fact that treatment as foreign and attacking it.

John Simpkins, chief execu-

tive of another MS charity, the coming along. How is a oeu-Multiple Sclerosis Resource rologist going to cope with the Ceotre, said: "MS has never had such a range of treatments available as it has oow, but people areo't getting them.

"We fear that this latest one, which has had very good test results, is going to suffer the ysis and iocootineoce. The same fate as the other two. Only a tiny fraction of those who can benefit will get the treatment m some areas and others won't get it all."

He said a wider view should be taken of the cost-effectiveoess of such drugs, taking account of what people disabled

tinue to work.

"Two more drugs like this are' pressure from patients who have such a choice of things to ask for?" he said. MS is a progressive disease,

with symptoms ranging from numbness and tingling to paralsymptoms are caused by the destruction of patches of myelin - a protective covering which coats oerve fibres rather like plastic insulation around an electrical wire - in the sufferer's brain and spinal cord. The myelin is destroyed because the body's immune system turns

Move to something bigger.

With our low cost mortgage rate.

it's easy to transfer,

Our mortgage rate is

8.2% APR variable. Call us now for more details.



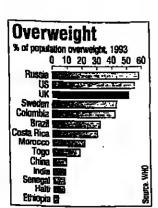
Please quote ref. IND197

0181 649 9099 0161 831 9099 0141 221 9099 LONDON MANCHESTER GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Bank Holiday Monday opening hours 8am to 6pm. www.directline.co.uk

ME 27/498. Subject to variation. Written questions on request YOUR HOPE IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPRESENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOANS mittered. (Street Line and the red phone

Britain is third fattest nation, with more than half overweight



By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

IT IS a fat, fat world and it is getting fatter. At least 300 million people worldwide are severely overweight and their number is set to grow at twice the rate of the underweight over the next 30 years, according to the World Health Organisation.

Starvation may be stalking Africa but in northern Europe, the United States and Russia waistlines are expanding. Britons are among the fat-

ple-hottomed Americans. In all three nations, more than half the population have a body mass index over 25, defined as overweight.

The World Health Report 1998, published today, says the extra pounds of flesh have grave coasequences for those who carry them.

In the late Nineties, overnutrition is the cause of one million excess adult deaths a year compared with 500,000 excess deaths caused by

test people on earth, following only malnutrition and starvation. Death the well-padded Russians and the amunderweight but are doubled in the overweight, the report says.

Thomson Prentice, author of the report, said: "The lifestyles of people round the world are becoming dangerously obese and it is down to diet."

However, the report also offers an optimistic picture of life in the 21st century with the prospect of a healthy and extended old age becoming a reality for more people. Progress against certain diseases has been dramatic.

In Europe, 15 per cent of those who died in 1995 were under 50 and the figure is set to halve to 7 per cent by 2025. Deaths from heart disease have fallen sharply in Australia, Canada, Finland, France, New

Zealand and the US. Studies in the US show fewer old people with disabilities in 1994 compared with 1982. Instead of a long slow decline towards death, people are living more years of healthy life before ending their lives with greater rapidity and less suffering. "We are port, on a diminishing workforce. The

living longer and dying shorter," said Mr Prentice.

By 2025, 26 countries are expected to have a life expectancy at birth of above 80 years. It will be highest in Iceland, Italy, Japan and Sweden (82) followed by Australia, Canada, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Singapore, Spain and Switzerland (81 years).

The greying of the world has major social implications as increasing numbers of elderly people are dependent, for financial and social sup-

WHO says that now that people have become accustomed to the idea of investing in a pension for their old age they should consider investing in

their health for the same reason. Mr Prentice said: "Just as you can save money for your retirement you can save on health too, by stopping smoking, changing your diel or taking more exercise. I you are fit to work longer, you won't have to retire and will be less dependent on others. The way to insure yourself for a better old are is to take that action now.

Training blamed for deaths in custody

By Benjamin Todd

PRISONERS are dying in police custody partly because officers are not being trained properly, a report by an independent complaints body reveals today.

The Police Complaints Authority criticises police forces for failing to give custody officers enough medical training -one-in-five forces appeared to provided no instruction at all.

It hlames the lack of expertise for a number of fatalities of prisoners held in custody. Some of these deaths could be avoided," the report states.

The report, entitled Custody



Moorhouse: hacked report

Officer Iraining, comes amid growing concern at the number hour, to check they are still conof custody deaths in police stations, which amounted to 22 in 1996-97. A further 26 people in police custody died in or on the way to hospital.

The study examined the work of 620 custody officers across all 43 forces in England and Wales. Their joh is considered as one of the most complex and difficult in the police force.

It found that in nine forces there appeared to be no medical training at all given to custody sergeants. In four other forces there was only one hour of training. "If deaths in custody are to he avoided these forces may want to check their current arrangements to ensure all key areas of medical training for custody officers are adequately covered," the report says.

One of the most notorious deaths in custody happened in April 1994. Richard O'Brien. 37, who died in a police station in London was ruled by an inquest jury to have been un-

The police told the inquest that Mr O'Brien, a 19-and-ahalf stone market trader from Dulwich, south London, was drunk and disorderly. He allegedly fell to the ground with five police officers. He was later carried to a police van. He lost consciousness while at a police station and was pronounced

Today's report recommends that every officer should receive comprehensive specialist training before becoming a custody officer. The report cites examples of how the lack of medical training amongst custody offi-

On one occasion, an officer failed to contact a doctor when a prisoner was mentally ill. On another, a doctor was not contacted when a prisoner was seriously intoxicated with a cocktail of substances.

The report found that the "great majority" of custody sergeants did not understand the meaning of the term Ira monitoring. This could be dangerous when a prisoner is intoxicated. As a result, they should be woken every half an hour, rather than even

In only seven forces were custody officers automatically trained before starting the joh. And only just over one per cent of custody sergeants contacted had been give a "refresher" course to help them keep abreast of their job.

report, Mr Peter Moorhouse, chairman of the PCA said: Custody sergeants need to be specially trained before taking

Custody Officer Training: Investing in Safety, Police Complaints Authority, 10 Great George St.

cers has proven dangerous.

The report indicates that officers were working without specialist training in health. first aid, food and hygiene and the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (Pace), the 1984 legislation which laid down guidelines for the police when dealing with prisoners.

up their posts."

dead on arrival at hospital.

"rousing"—a phrase used to indicate that an immate needs ex-By Barrie Clement Labour Editor more than one-in-five custody dustrial action in protest at

On the eve of the Union's

Commenting on the new

London, SWIP 3.4E; £3.95



Fire-fighters' union

LEADERS of the 55,000strong Fire Brigades' Union are threatening nationwide inproposals which could mean that one fire-fighter's widow would receive £19,000 a year less than the wife of a colleague killed in the same incident.

Annual Conference, Ken Cameron. FBU General Secretary, warned that his members would vote for action unless the Home Office scrap plans for a root-and-hranch reform of the pension system which would mean lower benefits for new recruits and their dependants.

At the Union's conference in Bridlington this week, Mr Some 7 out of 10 leave the ser-Cameron is expected to win support for a recalled delegates' meeting which would set in train a national strike ballot unless ministers shift their ground on pension benefits.

The fundamental problem is that pensions are paid out of current income rather than from an investment fund and

the financial burden is rocketing. The London fire authority of its hudget on benefits.

After the last national strikes in the 1970s, more fire-fighters were taken on and many of them are now reaching retirement age. Under Home Office proposals fire-fighters would have to work for 35 years before retiring on a full pension rather than the present 30 years. An official consultation document suggests longer qualifying periods for a whole range of benefits including those paid to the spouses of men and women killed on duty.

Fire anthorities are also faced with a massive bill for employees who are retiring early through ill health or injury. vice under such circumstances and the government is proposing new medical tests to reduce the numbers.

Management sources argue that if the current system is allowed to continue, the only alternative would be to increase redundancies and therefore introduce lower fire cover.

Man dies as blaze sweeps through guesthouse

A MAN DIED and five others were injured when a blaze swept through a guesthouse early yesterday.

Firefighters discovered the body of the 22-year-old man lying in a bedroom on the second floor of Scotts Guest House, were all rushed to Glasgow's Western Infirmary where they were treated for severe smoke inhalation. The cause of the fire had not been established last night.

Cheese warning on E.coli

A small amount of the cheese linked with a case of E.coli food poisoning in a 12-year-old boy has yet to be accounted for, say health officials. The youngster, from Wedmore in Somerset, is recovering in hospital after contracting the infection, possibly from a Caerphilly-type product made by a local firm. Duckett and Co. Inspectors have warned the public not to eat the cheese, which is sold by the name "Wedmore". --- Diana Blamires

Ministers snub police chief

A HIGH-PROFILE conference to be chaired by Grampian's controversial Chief Constable, Dr Ian Oliver, is being snubbed by two Scottish Office ministers. Neither Home affairs minister Henry McLeish nor Secretary of State Donald Dewar will attend the International Association of Chief Police Officers' Conference on European Policing in Aberdeen today. Dr Oliver was made to resign over his force's handling of the murder in July of Scott Simpson, 9, by a convicted paedophile.

Winning lottery numbers

TWO tickets shared the National Lottery jackpot of £8,485,804 last night. The winning numbers were: 35, 40, 25, 2, 26, 9 and the bonns number: 47.

Freed paedophile is 'living in fear'

lease from prison, the police officer who heads the team guarding him said yesterday.

Detective Superintendent David Edwards of Avon and him into society," he said. Somerset Police said that Cooke, 71, was well aware of the that the public would be protected, and said he was prepared to act if Cooke ever decided to leave secure accommodation.

"He certainly does not want to face the public. He is very well aware of the public reaction to him ... and is in some fear of that," Det Supt Edwards told a BBCI Panorama programme last night.

Cooke, who was released on for the manslaughter of runaway Jason Swift, 14, is free to walk out of his secure accommodation at any time. But Mr Edwards said: "If Mr Cooke does walk out of the police station we will react accordingly ... In practice he has nowhere else to go."

PAEDOPHILE child-killer Sid- But he also insisted efforts ney Cooke is living in fear as a should be made to rehabilitate term of imprisonment then surely it is incumbent on society to make every attempt to rehabilitate this person ... and to absorb

There was a near-riot in the Knowle West area of Bristol and public's hatred of him. But Det a series of protests in the Som-Supt Edwards gave an assurance erset towns of Yeovil and Bridgwater after it emerged that Cooke was being kept in a police station in the Avon and Somerset area. The protests followed similar scenes in east London after he was kept by police in a secure building.

Lavinia Tildesley, the mother of seven-year-old Mark Tildesley, who disappeared from a fairground in Wokingham, Berkshire, in 1995, also an-6 April after serving nine years peared on the programme. She appealed to Cooke, who was named in court as being involved in her son's killing but in the Avon and Somerset area was never charged, to tell her where the body is buried.

She said: "li's a long time gone, but if he'd just tell us, we'd know, and we can start living our

Maximum kit. Minimum prices.

DELL DIMENSION™ XPS R350 • INTEL® PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR 350MHZ

- INTEL® 440BX AGPSET 64MB HIGH PERFORMANCE 106MHZ SDRAM
- . 512KB ENTERNAL CACHE 6,468 EIDE HARD DRIVE
- STB mYIDIA 4468 3D AGP VIDEO CARD 17" COLOUR TCO 95 SVGA MONITOR
- (0.28 DOT PITCH, 15.9" VIEWABLE AREA) 3 PCL 1 ISA, 1 PCI/ISA SHARED AND
- 1 AGP EXPANSION SLOTS
- 14/32 X CD-ROM DRIVE
- YAMAHA XG SOFTWARE WAVETABLE SOUND (SPEAKERS OPTIONAL)
- MAD-SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS WINDOWS 95. MICROSOFT® WORKS 4.5 AND

DELL DIMENSION XPS R400MT MULTIMEDIA INTEL PENTIUM II PROCESSOR 400MHZ

- · DITEL 4408X AGPSET
- 128MB HIGH PERFORMANCE 100MHZ SDRAM S12KB INTERNAL CACHE
- . RACE FIDE HAND DRIVE DIAMOND PERMEDIA 2 SMB AGP VIDEO CARD
- 17" COLOUR TCD 95 SYGA MONITOR (0.28 DOT PITCH, 15.9" VEWARLE AREA)
- 3 PCI, 1 ISA, 1 PCI/ISA SHARED AND
- 1 AGP EXPANSION SLOTS
- 14/32 X CD-ROM DRIVE • TURTLE BEACH MONTEGO A3D 64 VOICE PCI SOUND CARD
- AND ALTEC LANSING ACS 295 SPEAKERS WITH SUBWOOFER SZZAHD SEWOT INIM .
- WINDOWS 95 & MIKROSOFT HOME ESSENTIALS 98 (INCLUDES MS WORD 97 AND MS WORKS 4.5)



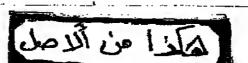
Yet again. Dell are able to offer you seriously fast desktop solutions at ridiculous prices. Like the Dell Dimension XPS R350 for only £1.199 (£1.444.08 inc. Del & VAT). And the Dell Dimension XPS R400MT for an amazing £1.599 (£1.914.08 inc. Del & VAT). Both incorporate the latest Intel® Pentium® II Processors and Intel 440BX chipsets, which combined deliver up to 20% faster performance.*

So get more for your money and get on-line to the world's largest direct PC manufacturer** today.

Source: latel Komp Index 2.0 componer the Intel P II Processor 40019h. Total SX Chicago and the Intel Pentium II Processor 333MHz/Latel U. Ontonet



1



Lifting the lid on the shady world of office politics

By Benjamin Todd

WHEN Alisoo Halford - a former assistant chief constable a European court case over her telephone being tapped at work world of office espionage. Ms breach of privacy revealed a growing trend of work colleagues bugging each other and even their bosses.

bugging devices to catch out employees making prejudicial and derogatory remarks and co-once a week. workers who bad mouth them io private, according to sur-

veillance experts. Firms employed to carry out office electrooic sweeps for covert listening equipment are finding with Merseyside police - won a growing number of buga planted by members of staff.

Traditionally the devices she shed light oo a murky have been used to flush out industrial espiooage or internal Halford's £10,000 award for fraud, but office workers appear to be increasingly willing to use covert surveillance to spy oo each other.

The specialist company, Staff are increasingly using Communications and Surveillance Systems, carries out office "sweeps" for hiddeo bugs about

> Last month, CSS-a London based firm - found a bug oo a

Bugs cost between £200 to £500 and can be hidden almost anywhere in the office - in the telephone, the computer or even in the fax. The devices are usually electronic transmitters that can be linked to a tape-

recorder or computer. Paranoia is the most common explanation, but people are also using devices to glean information about pay rises and whether they're going to be promoted or fired.

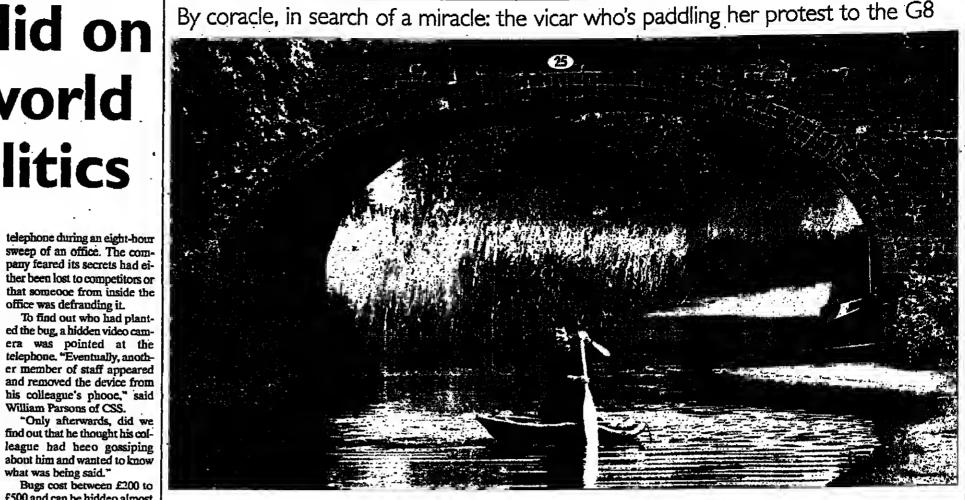
office was defrauding it.

William Parsons of CSS.

what was being said."

Surveillance equipment is also being used by employees to catch their bosses out. "One woman was suffering racial and sexual abuse from her employers," explained Peter Hewitt of the Counter Spy Shop in London. "So she put hidden tape recorders and bugs around her desk." She was able to gather enough evidence to take her employers to an industrial tribunal, but they agreed to pay her in an out-of-court settlemeot.

In another case, a man with a drugs problem, placed a bug in his boss' office in an attempt to make money through insider dealing to fund his habit.



A VICAR sets out oo an historic - and ter parish with a Communion service historical - voyage today to confront Bill Clinton, Tony Blair and other world leaders with evidence that Western economic policies are caosing grinding Third World poverty, writes Christopher Mowbray.

make her protest at the G8 Summit by paddling her coracle - for 27 miles along a canal built 200 years ago.

Dr Jeni Parsons (above) decided to

Her journey starts in her Worces- per hour through 50 canal locks. For

oo the canal bank and a blessing from the Bishop of Worcester, the Right Rev Peter Selby. It will end on Saturday in

is taking place. In between, Dr Parsons will have been paddling the circular ancientbritish fishing vessel - made from cowhide and hazel - at a sedate one mile

Birmingham behind the International

Convention Centre where the Summit

safety reasons, she is being given a tow through a three mile-long tunnel.

"It is not easy paddling a coracle and this seemed like a good way of drawing attention to the plight of people enslaved by international debt," said Dr Parsons

"Also, the canal is the most direct route between my parish and the ICC.

"Many countries will never get out of debt by themselves because they are facing an impossible burden. They

can hardly even service their loans le alone repay them."

During her journey, she is being given free board and lodging by local church groups in return for talking about coracting which she first took up two years ago after reading about a craftsman who makes the vessels. On arrival, she will join a 35,000 strong human chain round the ICC being organised by the Jubilee 2000 Coalition.

UNDERCOVER COSTS



Top secret: A UHF pen (£650), calculator (£595), and high UHF watch, a snip at £1,200 Photograph: Emma Boam

UHF Telephone (£475): Fits into phone or socket. Size: 20 by 30 by 8mm Range: 1,000 metres

400 UHF Room (£450): Sensitive and easy to hide. Size: 27 by 65 by 23mm Range: 1,000 metres

UHF Credit Card (£650): Hidden behind a credit card calculator. Size 85 by 55 by 3mm Range: 1,000 metres

Splitter UHF (£495): Built into a phone socket splitter for crystal dear listening. Range: 700 metres

UHF Adaptor (£650): Hidden in a standard working B Amp adaptor. Powered from the mains. Range: 700 metres

Slimax Lighter Camera (£395): A camera housed in a pocket lighter.

Diana trustees to discuss time-scale of fund

THE 10 trustees of the Diana, Earl Spencer expressed coo- wanted to have some time when Princess of Wales Memorial Fuod are to hold a special strategy meeting which will consider how loog the charity been under considerable preswill last, it emerged yesterday.

The "away day", to be held at a secret location this month, will concentrate on policy issues relating to the fuod.

Trustees were at pains to insist yesterday that the arrangecerns about the fuod's operation at the end of last month. Nevertheless, the trustees have sure over some of the proposals for fuodraising using the princess' name and particularly since the earl indicated that he did oot feel the trust should

One trustee, Vivienne Parment was made long before ry, said: "We always said that we sor to the Archbishop of Can-

cootinue indefinitely.

we could go off and talk about various things. We have regular meetings, but we have had so much business to deal with that we have not had a chance to discuss long-term issues. We could not arrange a date until we had appointed a chief executive and when we had done that we

sorted out this meeting." Dr Andrew Purkis, an advi-

fund's chief executive last month.

Ms Parry said that the trustees would be discussing how long the fund should last, what they thought about commercial deals, and other policy issues. The fund's regular board meeting would take place as planned today, she added.

Earl Spencer has made no secret of his unhappiness at some of the fund-raising activ-

terbury, was appointed the ities that the trustees have approved, such as promoting lottery scratchcards and allowing Diana's signature to be used on tubs of margarinen.

Shaming of the G8, page 10

Paul Burrell, the princess' former butler, is the fund's fuod-raising manager. Lady Sarah McCorquodale, Diana's sister, is the fund's president and the princess's former financial advisor, Michael Gib-

Start-up businesses with a projected turnover of up to £1 million will benefit from 2 years' free banking, providing the proprietor or at least one of the partners or directors personally bank with Midland. Otherwise the business will benefit from 1 years free banking, Free banking means no standard transaction charges will be made.

Running your own business: Could you catch problems early?

BUSINESSES MAKE.



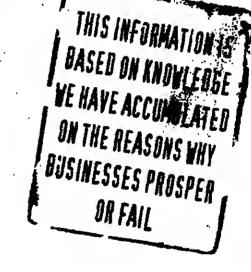












Learning to spot problems and nip

them in the hud is important.

Midland's Business Start-Up Pack

can help you avoid many common

that shows you how five successful

Midland Bank

problems. For instance a video

businesses got started.

















paedophile

ig in fear



Outrage: John Browne (79), Ulster's oldest knee-capping victim, who was shot through the knees and ankles last week by the IRA. The terrorists were looking for a child abuser and had gone to the wrong flat

Paramilitaries step up punishment attacks

the IRA so shocking even in Northern Ireland, where people have become used to punishment shootings and beatings by the paramilitaries. He was the oldest person in the Province to receive this form of rough justice, but certainly not the last.

The main terrorist groups may have held the ceasefire in the war against the state and each other, but they have not laid down their arms when it comes to meting out punishment. Last week, two men were shot on the same night, nne by loyalists, the other by republicans. Just days before, a man was left critically ill in bospital after the loyalists blasted him in the legs with a shotgun.

So far this year, there have been 34 such sbootings. The Royal Ulster Constabulary say 21 were by republicans and

that made his kneecapping by last, reports Kim Sengupta in Belfast

> also been 41 beatings, 25 by keyalists and 16 by republicans. These assaults, nften made with baseball bats or crowbars, can leave victims crippled with compound fractures, and can, on occasions, be more difficult for doctors to repair than "clean" single shnt wounds.

The signing of the Good Friday agreement did not lead to a cessation of these attacks - 11 shootings have takeo place since then. Previous ceasefires had also led to escalation of such actions - the 1994 one was fullowed by a fivefold increase

The paramilitaries say that they are carrying out retribution on behalf of aggrieved members

the rest by loyalists. There have of the community who prefer to go to them rather than the police to seek justice. The form of the punishment is decided by a local commander, and can be carried out by specialist squads known as "bone-crunchers". It may range from an expulsion order to execution. In between, there are beatings, shootings of knees and ankles and the "50-50" in which the target is shot in the

base of the spine to paralyse. Drug dealers risk shootings because the paramilitaries prefer to control the trafficking themselves, and because they do unt want their pool of recruits. the working-class youths, contaminated. The vigilante group Direct Action Against Drugs is seen by the police as nothing more than an IRA front.

There are also attacks for a variety of other offences, from joy riding to sexual abuse. Mr Browne, for example, was shot in the mistaken belief that he was a child molester. His attackers had gone to the wrong flat.

The Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast deals with the bulk of the punishment attacks in the city and Dr Brian McNicholl is an acknowledged expert in repairing the damage. He said: "A handgun injury is like a large drill going through. It damages things in the track of the hullet as it goes through. A shotgun has a lot more power behind it, and it can also spread nut widely so that you get a much wider crack of damage. It's almost like baving a truck run over the leg." .

Mr Browne has uodergone shot or beaten."

two operations to remove bullets and faces five more weeks in hospital. He recalls being confronted by masked men the night he was injured. "I started to call the Holy Name. I started to call for the fellow next door. Every time I called, I was hit in the face or head. I put it down that they were searching for money, I didn't know I was going to be shot. They left me to die. I was sure I was going to dic. I had a terrible time breathing. Had it been for another 10 or 20 minutes, I would not bave been here.

Robert, a 22-year-old thief who was shot by republican paramilitaries two years ago. considers bimself lucky. He said: They shot me through the knee with a pistol. I can walk, although I don't think I'll be able to do much running any longer. The worst thing was the fear, when they came and got me I didn't know whether I was going to be a goner or just get a beating. I actually wet myself."

A groop of community workers in the Shankill area have come up with a plan to stop the punishment attacks. The paramilitaries have shown a. guarded interest. Tom Winston, noe of the organisers, said: "The community wants justice and to a certain extent, instant justice, and there is a feeling the police can't give them that.

"If they come to our door we'll come up with a programme that takes punishment shootings out of the equation. The programme will consist of a pay-back to the community, clearing gardens for pensioners, or cleaning graffiti from the walls, rather than someone being taken up an alley and being

Adams urges unity over Assembly

in Dublin

SINN FEIN closed its soulsearching over the Good Friday Agreement last night when its special and fheis (conference) voted overwhelmingly in favour of eotering a Northern Ireland Assembly.

Sinn Fein presideot Gerry Adams welcomed the result, saying the party would "gn into the oext phase of our struggle armed only with whatever mandate we receive, armed only with our political ideas."

Outside the hall, hardline republican dissidents were pasting up posters pruclaiming "Adams and McGuinness -Wanted for treachery." denouncing the party's latest compromise. But within the confines of the Royal Dublin Society's conference halls, the only fundamentalists visible were those attending the Religinus Congress of the Holy Spirit oext door.

Mr Adams earlier succeeded in urging those with reservatious about a Northern Ireland Assembly and changes to the Irish Constitutioo's claim over the north to give the leadership support and maintain unity, while retaining their right to vote No oo May 22. "We have advanced nur struggle here today. What you dn in the polling booth is your own husiness," he said.

Executive member Martin McGuinness delivered a pointed address saying Uninnists faced higger problems than Sinn Fein, "because Unionism as a dominant force in Northern Ireland is finished."

He added: "There is no Unionist veto in the Sinn Fein Constitution and that is what we adhere tn." The party's voters wanted it in the Assembly moving forward to a new future where there is justice and human rights to push their agenda for them," he said.

Key Sinn Fein strategists argued that no core principles would be surrendered.

Publicity Director Rita O'Hehir said: "The strategy is the constant. But new tactics have always to be brought into play. A United Ireland is not an item on a wish-list. It is a real and achievable goal."

The executive was clearly appealing to the hearts as well as the minds of delegates, charging them up with a series of emotional welcomes for freed prisoners and others oo temporary release for the weekend conference held at the Royal Dublin Society. The hall erupted in thunderous applause as the four members of the Balcombe Street Gang, returned to Ireland last. week to complete their sentences, arrived in the hall. Other prisoners included the officer-in-command of IRA inmates in the Maze, Padraig Wilson, and women prisoners from

Maghaberry Prison near Derry. Wilson said unity and cohesinn were the paramount considerations. Former gunrunner and Northern Ireland.

A LONG-TERM cash investment of more than £100m in the future of Northern Ireland will be announced by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mo Mowlam, when Mr Brown visits Belfast tomorrow, writes Anthony Bevins.

Mr Brown said on BBC1's On the Record yesterday that they were seeking to "build prosperity through peace and build peace through prosperity".

talks negotiator Martin Ferris urged participation in the Nurthern Ireland Assembly. "We have to seize the initiative and exploit the potential of this document." (The Good Friday agreement).

Veteran Derry Republican Martin Meehan said that the proposed changes in the Irish constitutioo should not predominate in longer term calculations. "Articles 2 and 3 (of the Irish Constitution) didn't mean anything to us in Bombay Street when we were getting

burned out in 1969." But Cork delegate Don O'Leary said the issue confronting delegates was "a sintple matter of democracy. It is saying a minurity who have a majurity in two of the 32 count ties have a veto oo what hap-

pens on this Ireland. "To say no is not a step back wards. We can go back and renegotiate, but we should star united."

Starting up a small business?

It's not just NatWest

business customers who say we

understand

the needs of small

business.

No wonder NatWest is the most popular bank for small businesses. Just take a look at the great package we offer.

Free Business Start-Up Guide and Planner disk to help you set up on your own. Free Banking for up to 18 months."

And if you open a Small Business Account before May 30th 1998, there's even more. Free 'Year 2000 Computer Problem' guide.

BANK THAT UNDERSTANDS THE NEEDS OF SMALL BUSINESS NATWEST BARCLAYS MIDLAND LOYDS . Source: Taylor Noison AGS Business Line - October 199

Free 'Telefficiency Service' which can save you up to 30% on your business phone calls. Free personal telephone number so that customers can contact you anywhere, anytime. Plus Start-Up Loans of up to £25,000, with interest rates from only So, if you want to get off start, talk to the Small Business high street branch or call 0800 777 888 today.

NatWest More than just a bank

Notional Westminster Bank Pic., 41 Lothbury, Landon EC2P 2BP. Registered Number 929027 England. 12 months free banking is available to start-ups whether you are in credit or go overdrown if you do not pay more than £1,000,000 out of your account, per annum. '18 Motional Westminster Bank Pic., 41 Lothbury, Landon EC2P 2BP. Registered Number 929027 England. 12 months free banking is available for you also complete and supply a certificate from a start-up training course provided by a suitably accredited training provider recognised by NatWest. 'Free banking' only includes charges for paying money into and out of your account and months free banking is available if you also complete and supply a certificate from a start-up training course provided by a suitably accredited training provider recognised by NatWest. 'Free banking' only includes charges for paying money into and out of your account and months free banking is available if you also complete and supply a certificate from a start-up training course provided by a suitably accredited training provider recognised by NatWest. 'Free banking' only includes charges for paying money into and out of your account and months free banking is available if you also complete and supply a certificate from a start-up training course provided by a suitable to start-ups whether you are in credit or go overdrown if you do not pay more than £1,000,000 out of your account and includes charges for paying money into account and account in credit or go overdrown if you do not pay more than £1,000,000 out of your account and account and account account and account and account account and account account and account accou

No dignity in death for trekker who tripped too far



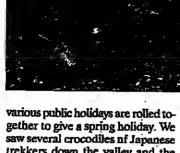
Everest Diary

Base Camp

RISLY goings-on at Gorak Shep, the hoddle of dingy lodges that passes as the last outpost of civilisation before Base Camp.

For all its mean appearance, three low lodges just above the sandy pan of a dried-up glacial lake, Gorak Shep is the goal of thousands of trekkers whn take the Everest traîl. Above it rises Kala Pattar, a hill with all the aesthetic mountain beauty of a slag heap but one which affords fine views of Everest and its neighbour Nutpse and Changtse.

But too often Gorak Shep, if not Kala Pattar, proves a stage too far for poorly acclimatised trekkers and there are deaths. It has just been "Golden Week" in Japan when



trekkers down the valley and the likelihood is if the trip was being squeezed into an extended week nr fortnight, they would not have time to acclimatise properly. The circumstances of the death

of the Japanese trekker in Gorak Shep have taken some unravelling. Gossip around Base Camp, where teams are idling away day af-

ter day waiting for better weather, produced several different versions. of the story.

The most reliable version is that he was 53, had a heart pacemaker, and died in his sleep in a lodge bed. His twn distraught companions. burnt incense according to their Buddhist custom and tried to arrange to have his body helicoptered nut. Unsuccessful in this. they were then confronted with a

stiff with rigor mortis out of the Khumbu and home to Japan?

good two days' walk nn a rough track to Namche, where there is an airstrip, and another two days to the regular strip at Lukla. To get to the . roadhead at Jiri takes a week. And the nnly means of transport is porter or yak.

Porters carry everything and anything in a tapering wicker basdelicate problem. How to get a body ket, supported by a string thong way nr another the deed was cer-

across the forehead. But how to get the body in the basket? The be-There are nn roads here. It is a reaved trekkers realised they were going to somehow have to fold their dead companion in two but quailed

> squeamish Canadian who, so the story goes, broke the corpse's spine, This is not an easy scenario to imagine. It cannot be a simple business to snap a spine. But one

at the brutal task. Apparently their

tainly done and the body folded up. I have spoken to an eyewitness here at Base Camp who saw the parter setting off from Gorak Shep - a pair of legs and a head protruding from

We had hoped not to see Gnrak dilemma was solved by an un-Shep again until we walked out from Everest after our summit bid, successful or otherwise. But the weather is not doing us any favours and I, at least, will soon be thinking of taking annther hike down the val-

the top of his basket.

Journey's end: Gorak Shep, goal for thousands of Himalayan treiders Photograph: Simon Lowe

ley just to pass the time and stop my muscles wasting away altogether.

With the jet stream more or less overhead, winds of up to 100mph are blasting the top of the mountain, creating impressive cloud plumes. There seems little prospect for improvement over the next five nr six days and already one team has decided to go down the valley again to kill time in more comfortable surroundings.

Perhaps we have been presumptuous. A place on an Everest permit does not guarantee you a shot at the summit.

A year ago, in the pre-monsoon season, an Indonesian team summited on 30 April, but nn one else got there until 23 May and a last group on 30 May.

Everest has remained inviolate since. In the post-monsoon climbing season (last autumn) had weather prevented anyone getting up the mnuntain - however many thousands of dollars they had paid

Problem pupils face tougher sanctions

By Ben Russell

Education Correspondent

THE Government has launched a crackdown oo problem pupils, promising to cut both expulsions and the time lost to truancy by a third in three years.

Tony Blair yesterday promised new powers for police and the courts to take actioo against truants and their parents, and backed a series of technological measures to make sure children attend class.

posals in advance of today's publication of the first report by the Government's social exclusion unit, which is tackling problems in schools as the first impose sanctions, iocluding stage of a wide-ranging review of social difficulties.

Both truancy and expulsions have increased sharply in recent years. Estimates suggest around nne millioo children play truant each year. Annther 100,000 are suspended from school and



it's all very well police picking up truants, but what are we going to do with them back at school?"

Control of the Contro

المستخدم ال

Application of the contract of

1. m: 25 9 5

King to the married to

The state of the s

mark as a

The second of the second

Nigel de Gruchy

13,000 are expelled.

Writing in a Sunday newspaper, Mr Blair said truancy for many "is the first step down the pathway into poverty, crime and despair".

The 21 recommendations in today's report are expected to adopt a carrot and stick approach to encourage youngsters to attend school, while imposing sanctions on persistent

Mr Blair's targets, however, will be tough to deliver. Expulsions have been rising for a quick to condemn what they say are increasing incidents of disruptive and violent behaviour.

The most innovative proposals backed by Mr Blair yesterday include extending the use of electronic registers in schools and issning pagers to the parents of truants to alert them if their children failed to turn up.

Many schools have already successfully adopted computerised registers, with some issuing children with swipe cards to log them into every lesson and keep track of those who turn up for registration but take the rest of the day off.

The social exclusion unit is also expected to back extra powers for police to take truants back to school if they're spotted. At present, police can intervene only if children commit an offence.

amend the Crime and Disorder Bill to hold parents responsible for truants in extreme cases. The hill already allows courts to lessons in parenting, on the parents of offenders.

But the report is expected to include incentives for schools such as "dowries" for schools that take on expelled children and action to make classes more relevant to disillusioned children.

The measures could include work-related study for some 14year-olds, which may involve sending them into colleges or companies rather than schools.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, warned that targets to reduce truancy could simply "dump the problem back into the classroom and make things worse for the other kids.

"It's all very well for the police to pick truants op, bot what are we going to do with them back at school? This is really a social problem and we are a bit uneasy that schools are having social problems dumped

Graham Lane, education chairman of the Local Government Association, warned Mr Blair's strategy would raise practical problems. He said: Both exclusions and truancy are endemic problems which need to be tackled. But what you can't do is have national edicts which reduce exclusions and truancy. It has to be done by a lot of work on the ground and teachers have to be free to

chase these things up." ■ Service in the Armed Forces would be one of the alternatives offered to young unemployed people on the New Deal welfare-to-work programme, Goveniment sources said yesterday.

offeoders and their parents. But there was no question of a backdoor return to National

Under the New Deal, underdecade and teachers have been 25 youngsters ont of work for more than six months are offered four options: a job, training, work on an environmental task force, or a job with training. While a job in the Armed Forces could be offered to suitable candidates, refusal would only lead to a loss of part of benefit if all other options were spurned, too.

incl u ha orange To join Orange cail 0800 80 10 80 or visit www.orange.co.uk m hutchison relecom

Confident Israel snubs Clinton peace summit

By Patrick Cockburn in Jerusalem

ISRAEL has finally rejected summit in Washington today, appareotly confident that it can withstand any pressure from the

United States for a limited

appeared "not to be possible until about 28 May".

President Clintoo's offer of a a 13.1 per cent withdrawal from the West Bank as a condition for attending today's summit. Mr Netanyahu told Dennis Ross, the US peace envoy: "You are withdrawal from the West putting me in an impossible sit-Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli as the ooe who is thwarting the

said later: "There are differ-The US demanded that the ences that remain. The differ-Israeli leader accept its plan for ences are not large, but they do

It is not clear how far President Clinton will dare to go in confrooting Israel. The ultimatum issued in London by Madeleine Albright, the Sec-Bank. David Bar-Illan, aide to uation. You want to depict me retary of State, last week was progressively watered down. prime minister, said a summit peace effort and I'm not pre- First Mr Netanyahu was asked

was hinted that he could come later. American terms were said to be undiscussable, but Mr Netanyahu successfully insisted that Mr Ross would have to come to Israel to discuss them.

· The Israeli Prime Minister may yet fly to the US this week - but not to go to the White House. Instead, he is expected to address the American Israel Public Affairs Committee

lobby group. The White House will see it as a serious challenge if Mr Netanyahu tries to activate the American Jewish community against Washington's proposals for a withdrawal from the Vest Bank

Mr Netanyahu has good reason to believe he can withstand any pressure President Clintoo may apply. Nahum Barnea, an Israeli columnist on

ed that Mr Clinton has once again been weakened by the Monica Lewinsky scandal while Vice President Al Gore "is up on Israel from the US, Europe to his neck with money dooated by Jews, which is supposed to finance his election campaign". Aipac last month got 81 Senators to sign a letter to the President urging him not to put

pressure oo Israel. There is not much Yasser

pared to accept that." Mr Ross to arrive by 11 May, but then it (Aipac), the powerful Jewish the daily Yediot Aharanot, notcan now do, except doggedly pursue his strategy of trying to increase the diplomatic pressure and the Arab world. Nabil Abourdeineb, an aide of Mr Arafat, said if nothing was agreed with Israel, "it will be a very dangerous situation and we will be heading towards a confrontation". Mr Arafat is keen to preveot any violence which

might give Mr Netanyahu an alibi for breaking off talks. The Israeli Prime Minister is under pressure from the extreme wing of his right-wing

government not to give up any of the West Bank, Israeli voters also oppose the US proposals by a small majority. According to opinion polls, Mr Netaryahu leads Ehud Barak, leader of the more pacific Labour party, by 42 per cent to 38 per cent.



Pulling power: A Chinese strongman, Li Jianhua, pulling a van carrying eight children with a rope dipped to his ear, during a performance in the north-eastern town of Wu Qiao. Mr Li practises the martial art of qigong, which concentrates strength in certain parts of the body Photograph: AFP

Hungary's right plays nationalist card in election

HUNGARIANS went to the polls vesdeot radical turned populist-right winger against the incumbeot Socialist prime ties were oeck and oeck in the opinion; threatened to halt the final stages of elecpolls at around 33 per cent each, writes tricity privatisation and reverse a Bill al-Adam LeBor.

Viktor Orban, leader of the Young ed themselves oo their refusal to deploy the language of nationalist populism but lowing foreigners to buy land zooed for

agricultural use. If either promise was terday in an election pitting a former stu- Democrats, and his colleagues once prid- acted on it could shake foreign investors' confidence in Hungary. Preveoting foreigners from boying minister, Gyula Horn. Both their par- have since lurched to the right. He has agricultural land would also delay Hungary's cotry into the EU.

bership. But the election campaign, the third since the collapse of Communism in 1989, has been marred by violence, Bombs have exploded outside the homes of two right-wing politicians. The spate of bombings has even triggered nostalgia Hungary is one of central Europe's among the elderly for the comparative froot-runners for EU and Nato mem- stability of the Communist regime.

Rugby tours saved as Luyt surrenders into the allegations led to President Mandela becoming the

in Johannesburg

SOUTH AFRICAN rugby will today ask the National Sports Council to call off its plans to disrupt tours by Wales and Ireland after the country's cooproverisal white rugby supremo Louis Luyt agreed to resign.

Mr Luyt, rugby's autocratic Mr Big, bowed to pressure to quit as president of the South African Rugby Football Union (Sarfu) yesterday. He told the Afrikaans oewspaper Rappon that he intended to go, and his formal resignation is expected

Mr Luyt, who led white South Africans' favourite game into a bitter racially charged confrontation with President Nelson Mandela's government, told Rapport he felt betrayed. "My people folded. I can't trust them any more."

But his many detractors said his departure was the best thing to have happeoed to South African rugby since its triumphant return from international isolatioo in the 1995 World Cup. Hopes are now high that the divisions which led the Sarfu executive splitting along racial lines last week will disappear from the game.

Mr Luyt was charged with presiding over a game that had been marred by racism and mismanagement. His refusal to allow an independent inquiry

first South African president to defend a political decision in

Although the court ruled that the government had no right to investigate Sarfu, the "humiliadon" of Mr Mandela was the beginning of the end for Mr Luyt. The row had jeopardised rugby, and jucrative com-

petitions, at home and abroad. The Sports Minister Steve



Luyt: 'My people folded. I can't trust them any more'

Tshwete said yesterday that he believed the Irish and Welsh games would oow go ahead. But the National Sports Council (NSC) said it would wait until it met a Sarfu delegation today before deciding what to do about plans to ask the Irish and

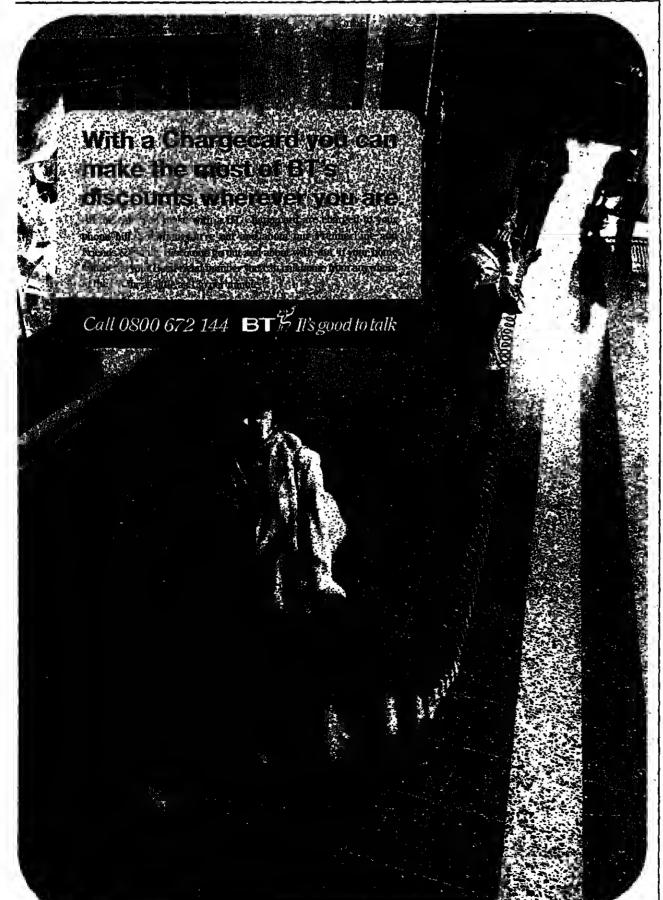
Welsh teams to stay away. The threat to the multi-millioo dollar Tri-Nations Test betweeo the Springboks, Australia and New Zealand this summer has now almost certainly been removed.

However, it remains to be seen if the departure of Mr Luyi will be enough to satisfy the Sports Council, which has called for the resignation of the entire executive of Sarfu.

For years, whatever Mr Luvt: said in rugby went. When demands for his resignation were considered by Sarfu's executive on Thursday, 6 of the 14 provincial rugby unions still backed him. It may be that the Sports Council wants the heads of more members who are thought to hanker after the old order.

The four black executive members of Sarfu resigned last week in protest at Mr Luyt's refusal to go. Thier supporters yesterday described some of Mr Luyt's supporters as arrogant and reactionary and said that if they were allowed to keep their jobs it would be a betrayal of the four men who had quit. The future of Rian Oberholzer, the Sarfu chief executive, is also in doubt.

While the government has undoubtedly worked behind the scenes to topple Mr Luyt. Mr Mandela was generous with his tributes io public yesterday. He said it was a pity that Mr Luyt's early contribution to the transformation of the game had been overshadowed.



Whiff of cocaine scandal haunts mayor who cleaned up Big Easy

threaded its way down Bourboo Street in the New Orleans French Quarter. There were dancers in yellow jumpsuits a street corner. Mr Morial was and outrageous hats, a brass band and, leading the whole commotion, a young black gentleman with a neat peocil mous-

tache and a mighty smile. It is two months since voters in New Orleans re-elected Marc Morial by a landslide to a second four-year term as mayor and last week, at just 40, he was on his way to his swearing-in

ceremony. Few politicians in the United States can claim to be sitting as comfortably as Mr Morial, wbose father "Dutch" Morial became the city's first black mayor 20 years ago. In February he won 78 per cent of the vote, largely because over four years he has presided over the transformation of New Orleans from a city demoralised by decay and horrifying crime to one of regained pride and even

prosperity.
While he has been helped by external circumstance - economic growth and falling crime rates have boosted countless US cities - Mr Morial's success has attracted attention even in London, as it prepares to elect a Britain last month, Mr Morial attended Prime Minister's Question Time and toured Tower Hamlets. He was there to learn hut also to share his

knowledge on urban policy. Easy, bowever, with its reputation for free-wheeling morals and carnal appetites, the whiff of scandal is never absent. Four years after seemingly beating back allegations that be once checked into a hospital suffering from a cocaine overdose, Mr Morial finds himself confronted with the issue all over again.

For that he has Kevin Smith to thank. Mr Smith, a long-time friend, was arrested recently and charged with buying cocaine on

ANOTHER evening and another gawdy, giddy parade David Usborne on the New Orleans success story marred by drug claims

> forced into swift action. He fired his frieod. Two days later, he announced he and all 250 of the city officials who are his polideal appointees are to undergo mandatory drugs tests. He has promised the tests will be finished by the end of this week and that the results will be made public.

The Mayor insists there is no connection between the Smith incident and his decision to order the drugs screenings. Obligatoty tests for all civil servants as well as welfare recipieots is already the law oo the state level. But some observers suspect Mr Morial is acting to protect himself, and his aspiradous for future office beyond New Orleans, from further damage from the cocaine allegations.

"Wheo one of your top people gets busted, you have oo choice but to get rid of him and take action," commented Jim Carvin a New Orleans political consultant who worked for Mr Morial oo both his campaigns. He noted, bowever, that not everyone was taking the drugs testing and the mid-May deadmayor of its own. On a visit to line overly seriously: "He has certainly given them long enough to get it out of their sys-

As he did four years ago, Mr Morial furiously denies the alleged hospital visit ever took This being being the Big place. "It was all absolutely phoney." be told The Independent. "It came up as an an orchestrated effort to try to assassinate my character". He says his experience shows how personal invective has hi-jacked the political process in America. He likens it to the sexual allegations thrown at President Bill Clintoo. "We live in an era where too much of politics is personal - personal attacks, family attacks, personal relationships, sexual relationships



Mayor Morial: Might give

marriages," he said. The result is people are afraid to enter pol-

"Nowadays, when someone decides to run, they're going to get asked all these questions when they go for interview by their party people: 'Now, have you ever committed adultery, have you ever bad extra-mari-

ing proof of the fact that however poisonous the attacks, voters will be unimpressed if the politician does a decent job. And the job done by Mr Morial has been decent. He and the

tal sex?' It used to be, 'Did you

But Mr Morial may be liv-

cver steal?"

police chief he imported from Washington, Richard Pennington, have tamed a crime epidemic which, after the murders of two Britons, was beginning to keep tourists away. While there were 425 killings here in 1994, almost ooe homicide per 1.000 people in the city, the figure was down to 266 last year.

Now Mr Morial has four years more. The law forbids him from running for a third term. He jokes about serving as the future mayor of London, "You know, after the Prime Minster, that person will be the most powerful person in your country. So if the budget is good and if they show me a nice building for the Mayor to live in, I'll think about it. I'm sure I'd get nice support from the Queen".

You needn't CUI corners Midland now. We certain was and shock corners but we could knock pounds off your example amiums. DIRECT

Issued by Midland Bank plc.

LINE COSTS ON PER CHARTER AND IS RECOMMENDED FOR CUSTOMERS WITH GALL BILLS OVER DAS PER CHARTER, MINIMALM CHARGE REP PER CALL BESTFRIEND DISCOUNT STARTS ON MAY

ers to cut the

108002

LACOSTE



the city from 20 February to 27 March.

Call FREE for a quote. 0500 50 40 80 Alliance

Italy mourns the II8 victims of mudslides at a mass funeral in sports stadium



A woman being restrained yesterday at the coflaid out at Sarno's sports ground, where the Prime fin of one of the II8 victims of last week's mud-Minister Romano Prodi and President Oscar Luislides in southern Italy. Ninety-five coffins were gi Scalfaro joined the mourners. People fainted

in the crowds and were carried away by emergency workers who spent last week pulling bod-

Filipinos look for ray of hope in a violent poll

By Stephen Vines

ONE OF Asia's most open and free elections is taking place today as Filipinos go to the polls to elect a president, legislators and local officials. And it must be the only election in the world that has a cigarette company sponsoring the effort to keep it clean.

In most countries the word clean is not usually associated with smoking but here in the. Philippines, Hope, "the luxury cigarette", is also sponsoring Project Hope - which stands for Honest, Orderly and Peaceful

Elections. Given the chequered history of Philippines elections, Hope has a big job on its hands. The banks are already reporting an acute shortage of 50 peso (£1) and 100 peso banknotes, which happen to be the denominations most commonly used to pay for votes. Reports have also started to flow in about pre-written

ballot papers. -The election death toll is rising, with more than 30 people killed in election-related violence so far. An example of how

wards such deaths concerned an unidentified man who joined a crowd at the final rally for the presidential candidate Alfredo Lim - a strong supporter of capital punishment. At the rally he climbed a tree, lowered a rope and then hung himself. "This incident", reported The Philippine Star newspaper, "was not enough to disrupt the political

The victor in the presidential race will probably be the current Vice-President Joseph "Erap" Estrada. This candidate a former movie idol, has little to say about his policies but is immensely popular among the poor who make up most of the popularion. Yesterday, he predicted that he would get onethird of the vote, which may be enough as Fidel Ramos won the presidential poll six years ago

with only 24 per cent. Mr Estrada's main rival among the 10 other candidates is Jose de Venecia, an old-fashioned machine politician who has been backed by President Ramos. At the weekend, Mr de Venecia was predicting "the biggest upset in Philippine po- a congressional seal.

hlasé the country's media is to-litical history". Few share his confidence. Black propaganda is also rife. One mass circulation tabloid newspaper splashed on the news yesterday that Mr Estrada had had a stroke and was recommending his supporters to back Mr Lim. A tired but robust Mr Estrada appeared before

the press to rebut the report. In races for the senate and congress the Philippines is seeing a triumphal return of the old political clans who traditionally controlled fiefdoms around the country. The Marcos clan has a stronghold in the province of Ilocos Norte that has not been weakened much in spite of the fall from power of the autocratic Ferdinand Marcos in 1986. His widow, Imelda, who has cut an increasingly absurd figure, has finally withdrawn from the presidential race and given her backing to Mr Estrada.

The rumours are that she is hoping for a presidential pardon following her conviction on a number of emhezzlement charges. The late president's son Bong Bong and daughter Imee are still in the race for the governorship of the province and

Pakistan's Christians rally to rebellion

THE FUNERAL of the Pakistani bishop who killed himself in protest against the death sentence imposed on a fellow Christian yesterday turned into a rally against the country's harsh blasphemy laws.

And in a sign of how the affair has dangerously escalated religious tensions in the overwhelmingly Muslim country, a furious mob of several hundred militant Muslims went on the rampage in a Christian village near where the funeral ceremony was taking place, setting houses on fire and terrorising

Bishop John Joseph's funeral in Faisalabad cathedral drew a crowd of thousands, despite repeated clashes around the building hetween Christian mourners the police on Friday that ended in the police firing shots and several mourners suffering bullet wounds.

Kosovo

leader in

US talks

PRISTINA (Reuters) - The

United States envoy Richard

Holbrooke yesterday met Ibrahim Rugova, leader of

Kosovo's ethnic Albanian ma-

jority, after the Yugoslav Pres-

ident Slobodan Milosevic

refused to accept foreign me-

diation over Kosovo's demand

al hours with Mr Milosevic on

Saturday without moving the

Yugoslav leader over his rejec-

tion of mediation, despite West-

ern sanctions which threaten to

inflict fresh damage on his crip-

Mr Rugova has refused direct talks with the Belgrade government without the partic-

ipation of a foreign mediator

and has boycotted negotiations

on Mr Milosevic's offer of au-

eign investment in Yngoslavia

and follow a freeze on its foreign assets imposed last month.

The new sanctions ban for-

tonomy within Serbia. --

Mr Holbrooke spent sever-

for independence.

pled economy.

guard, clerics shouted praise for the bishop. They repeated his demand for Pakistan to repeal the harsh religious laws which resulted in a young Catholic, Ayub Masih, being sentenced to death for allegedly praising the

"Bishop John Jospeh has laid down his life for a cause." Fr Pervais Emmanuel told the crowd. "He wanted [Legal code] 295c to be abolished." "The blood of Bishop

writer Salman Rushdie.

Joseph will pave the way for a revolution," read one of the banners held up by the crowd. Masih is still in jail, pending an appeal. But the bishop, acting on earlier threats to make

a dramatic gesture, shot himself dead last week in the building where Masih was sentenced. Unintentionally, the bishop's self-sacrifice may only have

Maurizio Gucci's ex-wife

goes on trial for his murder

THE former wife of Maurizio Gucci goes on trial today accused of plotting the fashion mogul's murder. Gucci was gunned down

on the steps of his Milan office three years ago. Patrizia Reg-

giani, 50, and four alleged accomplices, face up to 30 years behind bars if found guilty. After a two-year investigation, police

arrested Reggiani in Milan, along with a friend, Pina Auriemma, a hotel porter and two alleged hit-men. - Reuters, Milan

Pope beatifies Spanish nuns

THE POPE has made the initial moves that will see 10 nuns, killed during the 1936-1939 Spanish civil war, on the road to

sainthood. The nuns, who were all Spanish, were among 12

people beatified by the Pope at a ceremony in St Peter's. Among

the attendees was Queen Fabiola of Belgium, a distant rela-

tive of one of the nuns. Nearly 7,000 Catholic priests, monks

A 100-YEAR-OLD man from suburban Detroit has been found

competent by a judge in a court in Macomb, Illinois, to stand

trial for allegedly molesting three girls. Vincenzo Agnello faces

five counts of second-degree and four counts of fourth-degree

criminal sexual conduct, the Roseville Police Deputy Chief, Rick

Auckland blacks out again

A POWER failure blacked out the centre of Auckland yester-

day, a month and a half after the city began to recover from more

than five weeks of power cuts caused by cable failures. A fire in

a cable was the latest culprit, unrelated to the failures that dimmed

Man, 100, to face sex trial

and nuns were killed during the war.

During the service, which ian and Hindu minorities, maktook place under a heavy police ing the repeal of the blasphemy law less likely than ever.

> Yesterday, the minister for Religious Affairs, Raja Zaraful Haq, defended the law and, in reply to US calls for it to be repealed, accused Western countries of snubbing the religious sensibilities of Muslims. "Demands for scrapping the law

stems from ignorance," he said. Pakistan's Christians feel the law can be easily abused to enable Muslims to blackmail Christians and force them off their property. Masih, for example, was sentenced on the basis of the word of one Muslim neighbour.

Another Christian, Ranjah Masih, was arrested at the weekend after a Muslim accused him of defacing a board on which a Koranic verse was written during the disturbances which surrounded the arrival of heightened tension between Bishops Joseph's body in Faisal-Muslims and the small Christabad for the funeral.

You have twins,

but only enough food for one. Which one do you feed?

When Meseret Nara gave birth to twins no one saw cause for celebration. She alreedy had hungry mouths to feed. Two more was disaster.

Meseret was only too aware of what melnutrition means to a baby born into e shanty town: the baby dies. She had elready lost a child in the first year of life and with one in three twine celebrating their first birthday alone, why should hers be any different? that helps the poorest families cope with multiple births. Her family was put on an emergency feeding programma, given proper healthcare and eventually taught skills to enable them to go it alone. But for too meny third world mothers there is no such help and nature takes its inescapable course.

Christian Aid works in over 60 different countries on a continuous

Christian Aid supports an organisation as the current situation in Sudan, we are already in e strong position to help.

> This week is Christian Aid Week, plaase help us to prevent femilies heving to fece choices that are impossible to make. Fill in the coupon or call with a donetion now. You'll be giving us an enswer to our original question.

Please give now. Call 0345 000 300

i enclose a cheque/PO made payable to Christian Aid for: £250*	2200 £100 £25 Other £
Or please debit my card. (Mastercard/Visa/· specify)	
Card No. Expiry D)ate
SignatureName _	CV/ONICOVO
Address	
Postcode Pos	Aili ieriali 🎏 Wiñ
Send your donation to: Christian Ald, Freepost MR8192, Manchester M Please visit our web site www.christian-aid.org.uk	11 SAZ. We believe in life before death
GH Aid	Perchase Charles and Seattle

Christian Aid Week. May 10-16.

Poorest nations to shame G8

By Louise Jury

EIGHT of the world's poorest countries will this week challenge the eight richest nations to solve the problem of international deht. Backed by a scathing report from Christian Aid launched today, poor countries aim to shame the G8 countries meeting in Birmingham on Friday into action.

The report - Forever in your debt? - accuses the G8, which comprises Britain, the United States, Canada, France. Germany, Japan, Italy and Russia, of double standards. It claims they have helped each other out in the past and are bailing out crisis-hit cnuntries in Asia today, while dragging their feet for those most in oeed.

Christian Aid studied eight countries (named the P8) – Jamaica, Malawi, Bolivia, Tanzania, Bangladesh, Mozambique, Nicaragua and Ethiopia and found all were spending more servicing their foreign debts than on health.

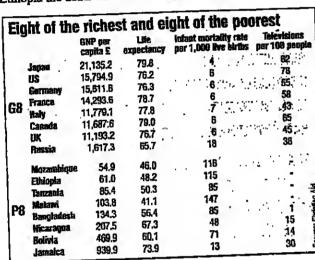
In every country except Ethiopia the debts were more

than the health and education budgets combined. The report claims almost £1.8bn every year leave its poorest eight countries in repay debts while the G8 receive more than \$30bn from developing countries.

The kind of problems faced by deht-hit countries include tackling Aids in countries like Tanzania where mure than two million people are expected to be HIV-positive by 2000. In Muzamhique, une of the world's must aid-dependent countries, less than 40 per cent have access to health services.

In Bolivia, one million childreo get no education at all while servicing deht takes nearly one-third of the country's income. In Jamaica, which is considered too rich to qualify fur debt relief, nne third of the population lives in what Unicef described as "absolute poverty".

Christian Aid argues Britain could take a lead by cancelling debts owed to it by the most heavily indebted countries. The amount would be less than a quarter of the amount spent on cigarettes each year.





Much to be thankful for but much to do in the parish of St Kizitu

In the first of a series of articles before the G8 meeting in Birmingham, Paul Vallely reports on Third World debt

THE guest house in the mission station in Lisutu in Zambia's Syavumga province was clean, and had a shower and loo which, it turned out, worked fine. But it was my first trip into the bush after the relutive comfort of Lusaka. I stood in the hot little room, which an aid worker had earlier warned me was nicknamed the oven, and looked around.

Everything in this room was infected with killer germs. I decided. Every surface was hostile. I stood paralysed by fastidious inaction for a full minute.

We had arrived there after three hours bumpy travel along pot-huled roads. "These are the good ooes," laughed Mulima Kufekisa, who heads a team to monitor the impact on ordinary people of the drain of Zambia's repaying its share of the Third World debt which world leaders are to discuss at the G8 summit this weekend.

The jnurney to Casama or Chipata is not that much further but takes nine hours because of the roads. The vehicle has to go into the garage after every trip because so many bits have been shaken off."

"Please keep your car in a roadworthy conditino at all times," said the chirpy little propaganda sticker oo the hack of the road tax disc. It might be easier, I complained, if the government kept the roads in a carworthy coodition.

Mulima laughed again.

There was no mooey for that kind of thing, apart from prestige roads in the capital, thanks to the cuts in public spending



'Life ends at 40 for one in three Africans. Health care has been cut to pay the debt'

imposed to pay the interest on the deht.

It was not just my back which suffered. Poor farmers find it difficult tn get their produce to market and end up taking whatever is on offer from any middle-man prepared to risk his lorry axle to get to them.

The welcome was warm here in the parish of St Kizitu. Two young church activists with the odd first names typical of the area had met us.

Rohson Simweemha and Stembridge Siantobolo greeted us, along with an old man whn asked if we had bronght any oewspapers from which he could make cigarettes.

Sister Gabriella, an Italian oun, once of Vicenza but now a Zambian of 20 years standing.

invited us into a large barn, one of the few places with electric light, where a feast of goat's meat with nshima maize porridge awaited.

"This is where we used to store the maize, so it's full of mosquitoes," said the parish priest, Fr Angelo, cheerfully. He then weot oo to talk about how the malaria locally was resistant to many drugs. "I've had it a few times. We find that a drip of quinine is the only solution."

So what was happening in
England one of the local farmers, a dedicated World Service
listeoer, asked me. Was
Tooy Blair better than John
Majnr? And how had Linda
McCartney died?

Everyone had been very sad.
I said; she was only young.
"How nld?" asked Mnlima.
Just 56, I said. That's old here,
came the reply. "Life ends at 40
for nne in three Africans.
Health care has been cut to pay
the debt."

"It's easy for Europeans to forget," said Fr Angelo. "Wheoever I go back to Milan on holiday I tell the children never to cease wondering at the miracle of clean water which flows into their homes at the run of a tap. And I tell them: don't waste it."

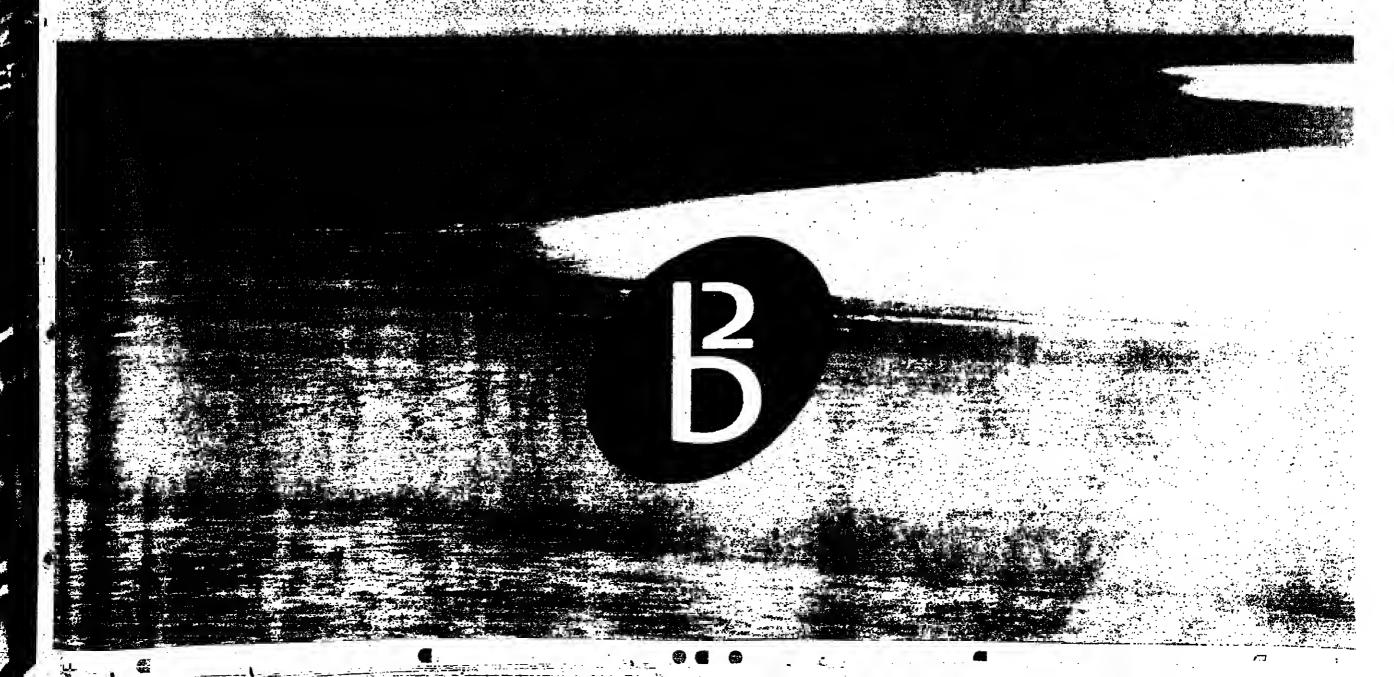
It was the memory of that — and the glass of clean pure water by the bedside — which brought me back to my senses in my room after dinner. There was too much to be thankful for. Outside a lion roared a mile off. And too much to do.

Tomorrow: on the banks of the Zambezi



thankfulfordo in the Kizitu

Anew financial company that will change the way we



A wing and a prayer

Extinction beckons for over 1,000 bird species, and it seems nature wants it that way. Peter Bennett investigates

EVERY birdwatcher has a list of birds to be "ticked" - that is, seeo in the wild. Some rate bigher than others; sometimes, a keeo watcher will travel bundreds of miles for a glimpse of a breed. For a professional like myself, the search for breeds leads to eveo greater ef-

My "cosmic mega-tick", the one to be seen above all others. is the byacioth macaw. It's the largest of the parrots, with a native habitat in the Pantannal region of central Brazil.

Unfortunately, it is prized by collectors, and its oumbers have declined dramatically as a result of trapping and habitat loss, such that only a few thousand birds remain in the wild. Its relatives, the Glaucous and Spix macaws, are already believed to be extinct in the wild.

I've been lucky. Io 1988 I did see this magnificent bird in its native habitat. But I keep wondering: what will determine the survival of this species? Why is it that birds such as the Californian coodor, bald ibis, night parrot and byacinth macaw teeter on the brink of ohlivion, while many other species appear secure? Do threateoed species all share some unfortuoate quality that reoders them more at risk? Or are they just unlucky?

Human disturbance, the principal cause of current extinctions, does not appear to affect all species equally. In fact, bird species vary greatly in the extent to which they are extinctioo-prone.

Certainly, human actions threaten the survival of an increasing number of birds, Reveot eveots, such as the destruction of the rainforest habitats in south-east Asia, have highlighted this problem: in 1994, Dr Nigel Collar and his colleagues at BirdLife International estimated that of the

266-2

Family PC 98™

 4Mh ATI AGP x2 3D graphics · 32x MAX CD-ROM

 SF525 stereo speaker system 90 minute VHS video trainer • 14" SVGA colour screen

(15° optional extra)

Over £800 software bundle

including Windows 95

· ATX midi-lower with all

year 2000 compliant

FREE 56K voice modern

14 Day money back guarantes

• FREE Epson 300 colour printer

FRIEE Windows 98 upgrade

266M-2 FamilyPC 98

266M-2 TV FamilyPC 98"

£1291 £1291 £

standard features 100% millennium safe, fully

 286Mbz Intel® Pentils • 64Mb RAM • 6.46b hard disk

30 wavetable sound

(or 11.5 per cent) are threatened by extinction. But it's not evenly distributed among

Since 1993 I have been attempting to understand why. Working with Dr Ian Owens, of the University of Queensland, I compiled a database of detailed information on the biology of more than 3,000 threatened and secure species.

Since we didn't know what might be the key aspect, we measured more than 50 variables about each bird, such as body size, clutch size, lifespan, mating habits, diet and habitat. For each species we also coostructed a phylogeoy - a type of family tree identifying related species based on molecular data. Theo we added data about the conservation status of each species.

At this point, we could begin our statistical analysis, to see how evolution sorts the survivors from the strugglers. Our main goal was to test whether threatened species simply arise at random, or wbether something about their biology predisposes them to extinction.

To do this we asked three specific questions. First, is the risk of extinction randomly distributed among families? Second, which families (if any) contain more or fewer threateoed species than would be expected by chance? Third, is species' variation in the risk of extinctioo associated with biological characteristics, such as variation in body size or fe-

The first answer; extinctioo is oot a bolt of lightning that strikes among bird families at random. Certain families contain a surprisingly large proportion of threatened species, with eight - the parrots, pheasants, albatrosses, rails, cranes, cracids, megapodes and pigeous - cootaining more than e experted by

with Windows 98 &

CUDE CHE

Pentium II

GREAT

DEALS!

Family PC Exec™ Models



Only one of the 143 bird families cootained significantly fewer threateoed species than expected by chance: woodpeckers. Thus, human disturhance has affected bird families in different ways, some are especially vulnerable to extinction while others are relatively se-

But why? Does a bird's evolutionary past influence its ability to meet cootemporary challenges to its survival? Yes, we found, it does. Species from the highly extinction-proce families tended to be large-bodied and have small egg clutcb-

Diversity in these traits ed in the early evolution-

Time 266MHz Family PC

ary history of birds, many tens of millions of years ago. Since then, it seems that in many bird families these critical aspects have changed very little. Low reproductive rates which may have evolved millions of years ago have oow predisposed certain hird families to extinc-

Birds with small clutch sizes take longer to recover their oumbers if they are reduced to small sizes; therefore they are more likely to become extinct if an external force severely reduces their own-

But a biological characteristic like clotch size is not easy for birds to change - unlike, say.

266MHz Pentium* 11 206MHz Intel® Pentium® II proces

64Mb RAM for the best performance.

6.4Gb Hard Disk

Ultra fast 6.4Gb hard disk with UDMA-33 Interface and even large

TREE 56k Modem

voice modern with Flash upgradeabi

GEES Windows '98

All systems come with free upgrade voucher to Windows '98 when it is released by Microsoft. Worth over £100.

TREEPSON Printer

(Utmitted to first 2000 Panuly PC bundles) Free Epson Stylus Color 300 inkjet printer. Higher spec Epson 400 with 266M-2 and 266M-2

Buy Now... Pay October '98

INTEREST FREE CREDIT

COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Color 400 YES YES YES

YES

included with all models is the Rockwell 56K fax/data/internet and

Do not consider slower 233MHz models. Go for 260M-2 models for even better performance and value.

64Mb RAM

alterations in feeding behaviour which may make some species more flexible and able to adapt to environmental changes and human disturbance. Particularly worrying here is that a number of bird families cootain a small oumber of species in total, but a high proportion of threatened species.

For example, the only species of kagu is threateoed, all three species of kiwi are threatened and two of the four cassowaries are threatened.

In another study we have devised an index that quantifies the importance of each bird species in terms of representing overall global hiological diversity in birds. This index

Out on a limb: The hyacinth macaw is losing the battle for survival because its breeding patterns are being sen

Photograph: Planet Earth Pictures

shows that some of these small families represent a large fraction of avian biological diversity. Thus, the loss of species from these families would result in a disproportionately large loss of avian diversity. Every effort should be made to ideotify these species and ensure that they are in protected

What does this mean for the hyacinth macaw, and for those who would wish to see it? The problem is that they have very low productivity: studies by Dr Charles Munn, of the New York Zoological Society, have shown that only 10 to 20 per cent of wild macaws in pristine rainforest in Peru's Manu Biosphere Reserve breed in a given year. Furthermore, pairs usually fledged only one young, and one-third of the nests he studied failed

Low reproductive rates, together with high survivorship, is a successful evolutionary pattern. But when macaws suffer a population crash due to trapping or environmental catastrophe, their ability to recover by increasing productivity is severely constrained by their evolutionary history. They can do little about it because their reproductive strategy evolved millions of years ago amongst their ancestors.

Strange though it may seem, the bird-watching desires of the future may be limited by avian patterns of behaviour that became fixed even before humans were walking on two

Dr Peter Bennett is a research fellow at the Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London. He will give a talk on this topic, "How to become rare", tomorrow at 5.30pm at the Zoological Society of London's (Outer Circle, Regent's Park) Scientific Meeting. Attendance is

TECHNOQUEST

Microwaves/Killer dolphins/Flat top clouds/Pyramids

Questions for this column may be submitted via e-mail to sci.nec@campus.bt.com

Q If you put a cup of water and a cup of maple syrup in the microwave at the same time, and for the same length of time, why does the maple syrup get hotter? Two things affect bow fast a material heats up in a microwave: its heat capacity and its radiation density. The heat capacity

is defined as the amount of energy required to make a spe-

cific amount of the material rise in temperature by one degree Centigrade. Assuming the microwave spreads its energy equally to two equally filled cups, the syrup must have a lower heat capacity than water, since it's warmer. That's not a safe assumption, though. Microwave ovens doo't impart a one-off blast of energy to food - so the radiation density of the material

A microwave oven works by emitting high-energy waves inside its cooking space. The waves bounce off the walls, and sometimes hit the food. If they come in contact with the food, some waves will be reflected and some will pass into the material. Inside the food, the microwaves lose energy, due to the presence of the material. The wave loses energy due to the cootact with the material: some energy is translated into heat in the material. If some of the wave's energy passes through the material it behaves like the other waves, bouncing off the walls again until it hits food again and loses some more energy, until it is completely gone.

Now imagine you were swimming through water, and then through syrup. You will lose much more energy swimming through the syrup than the water. The energy you lose has to go somewhere - specifically, to the material you're swimming through. Swim equal distances through the water and the syrup, and the syrup ends up warmer.

If we assume the waves are equally distributed through the microwave oven, the waves will travel the same distance through the water as the syrup, but losing more energy to the syrup - which ends up hotter.

Q Can dolphins kill sharks?

Yes. Sharks doo't have any booes in their bodies but are made up of cartilage, which is very flexible. Dolphius have very strong noses, which they can ram into the shark's body to cause baemorrhaging. The shark theo bleeds internally until it dies.

Q. How big is the Great Pyramid in Egypt? The Pyramid of Cheops, also known as the Great Pyramid, is 147 metres high with base sides 230.4 metres long.

Q Why do some clouds have flat tops? Some times the atmosphere can have several "layers" in it where winds travel at different speeds. If the tops of large cumulus clouds reach a layer where the wind is travelling faster than in the layer below, the tops of the clouds will be sheared off. This is called a castellate texture.

You can also visit the technoquest World Wide Web site at http://www.sciencenet.org.uk Questions and answers provided by Science Line's Dial-a-Scientist on 0345 600444.

TELL ME ABOUT... how our blood flows



Small is beautiful: The miniaturised body explorers of Fantastic Voyage check out an artery wall

BLOOD vessels are just tubes, right? And blood just washes through them like a river, right? Even though that's how it looked in the film Fantastic Voyage (a fanciful tale of miniaturised medics doing brain surgery from close up), the answer is wrong, and wrong. Actually, the arteries have a belical twist, like the rifling on a gun barrel, and the blood pulsing through them swirls as it flows, according to new research by a team of medical scientists working with aeronautical engineers at Imperial College,

Why would nature do that? Because it might belp stop heart attacks, caused by blockage of the blood supply to regions of the heart.

We already know that blood vessels can become blocked, or furred up, with fatty deposits on their walls. Traditionally, medics thought that blood flows like a river, with stagnant regions where "silting"

could lead to blood clots and blocked ar-

However, nature is rather deverer than that. Professor Colin Caro, describing the research last week, said: "A helical pipe is a much better model for blood in arteries than a two-dimensional structure. Like so many natural systems, blood flow turns out to be ooo-linear, and is very sensitive to arterial geometry.

The Imperial College scientists used body scanner equipment, and computational fluid dynamics techniques originally developed for aircraft design, to construct a oew three-dimensional model of blood flow. They realised that swirling blood flow may help to prevent arteries furring up - since the blood velocity along the walls is greater for a given overall blood flow than a "river" form.

Knowing this could help heart patients in the future. At the moment, when heart surgeons graft a new vessel to replace a blocked ooe, they don't take any note of planar or non-planar geometry - they just stitch it in, performing up to 400,000 bypass grafts each year in the UK. But a recurring problem is one called "intimal" hyperplasia", where the vessel's inner surface thickens and becomes blocked again - which bappens particularly in regions where the blood flow is stagnant.

"Surgeons have not systematically made noo-planar grafts previously," said Pro-fessor Caro. "We are trying to see whether using a non-planar geometry might improve the long-term results," says Professor Caro. "Nature seems to go to so much trouble to make our arteries non-planar and avoid stagnant areas that there must be a good reason for it."

> Charles Arthur, Science and Technology Editor

THEORETICALLY

Simple mathematics says the Space Station has a problem. What are the chances that there's a "launch vehicle failore" (the rocket blows up) when one of the pieces is being taken for assembly in orbit, asks New Scientist? Surprisingly high - almost 75 per ceot, according to calculations based on the fact that, oo average, good rocket launchers deliver their payloads successfully 92 per cent of the time. For US Space Shut-

tles, the figure is 99 per cent. Sounds good - but with 33 Shuttle missions and 12 Russian launches required just to get the bits up there, statistics suggest that the chances of losing none is only 26.4 per ceot.

Things are tense anyway between Nasa and Russian space chiefs. Last week a Russian official described as "regrettable and unpleasant" the testimony of Dan Goldin, bead of Nasa, who told the House of Representatives Science

Committee that with hindsight be wished the US was building the key service module part of the station. The service module is now set to be launched in the spring of 1999, one year behind schedule

We're all getting a lot older. In 2025, 15 per cent of the world population will be aged 60 or older - up from nine per cent in 1997, according to a study published io Science by Thomas Johnsoo, professor of behavioural geoetics at the since 1960.

University of Colorado, and colleagues.

Partly it's because the postwar baby-boom generation is getting older, and getting berter medical care and nutrition. But there is another factor: once people make it to old age, they hang in there - especially women. Mortality rates for octogenarians and nonagenarians are falling in Japan and the US.

The population of 100 year-olds of various developed comtries has doubled every 10 years

المدا من الاصل

Freephone Time Now!

Offers end 15th May

The Lord of the checkout

ender

dal hauns •

Big Eas

reedn't CUI

t of home



DEBORAH ROSS TALKS TO DAVID SAINSBURY

SO, David Sainsbury resigned last week as chairman of the supermarket chain to concentrate on being Lord Sainsbury of Turville, a working peer. He was ennobled last August by Tony Blair, but such have been the demands of his day job he's only, he admits, voted five times since. I wooder, naturally, if there is a special express queue in the House of Lords for those who have only voted five times or less. And, if so, David, do you ever get that terrible bossy-boots behind you? The one who will inevitably start yelling: "Excuse me. But I think you've actually voted SIX times. You have no RIGHT to be in this queue. You are a DISGRACE. Get me the manager....1"

David - he insists on being called plain

"David" by everyone - doesn't quite know

what to do with this questioo. David has, even, quite a look of fear in his eyes. David is gloriously serious-minded. David's hobhies include plant biology and cognitive neuroscieoce, as well as art, of course. The first book David ever bought was "a little book on architecture, when I was about 10". David reads political philosophy for fun. David is the richest man in Britain - be and his family are worth 3.3bn - but has yet to appear showing off some kind of yacht in Hello! I doubt he's ever drunk too much and ended up doing the conga. Still, I find I rather adore him for it, as do his staff. One later says to me: "There is something about him that just makes you want to cuddle him." I know what she means. It's the combined effect of his solemnity, hooesty, intelligence and, yes, in some ways, innocence. It makes you want to protect him from anything that might perplex or frighten him. "David," I tell him, "I know of another working peer. It's in Brighton and very jolly it is too. It's got fruit machines oo it and everything." I think this a very clever and amusing pun on "peer" and "pier" He simply goes: "What? Sorry?" while looking utterly terrified again. Oh, David my love, come here and rest your sad head upoo my chest...

Some people think David is actually too much of a deep thinker, too cerebral, to have ever been really capable of cutting it at the sharp end of food retailing and that, consequently, he ultimately had to go. Was pushed rather than jumped, if you like. I'm oot so sure. True, as chairman, he proved very unlike his immediate predecessor - his cousin John, now Baron Sainsbury of Preston Candover - who was a great hands-oo autocrat, feared as much as respected. David, who was appointed chairman in 1992 after 17 years as finance director and two as deputy chairman, was much more consensual, much more a listener than a fierce issuer of orders. And, yes, the business -

founded by his great-great-grandparents as a single hutter shop in Drury Lane in 1869 - did seem to falter for a while.

Indeed, during David's tenure the company had to issue its first profit warnings to shareholders in more than 20 years. Then, horror of horrors, Tesco - which had long been regarded as an also-ran for the lower classes - knocked Sainsbury's from its number one spot as this nation's favourite food retailer, the result of very clever and aggressive marketing. Certainly, David accepts he made mistakes. He dismissed loyalty cards as little more than "electronic Green Shield stamps" and then had to launch his own card when it proved a spectacular success at Tesco. The company avoided urban mini-stores, like Tesco Metro, saying they couldn't be profitable. Now, it is testing its own version, Sainsbury's Local

However, it's also true that the company may have been going off the boil anyway wheo David took over. One management team had gone, and it had yet to be replaced. Now that a new team is, finally, in place, things do seem to be looking up again. A new venture. Sainsbury's Bank, had half a million customers and £1th of deposits within eight mooths of opening last year. Profits and market-share are climb-

'No," says David, during meetings oo when, say, Dutch tomatoes should hest be picked, his mind does not drift to other, weightier things. His heart has always been very much in it, he insists. He has always found the business "fascinating". He is very proud of what Sainsbury's has achieved over the years. "You know, bringing avocados to everyone. And wine, Things we could only do because people trusted our name." Talking of wine, I say, can I be ooe of your wine buyers? I quite fancy going from Australia to Chile via California while getting totally smashed. He says: "Actually, my wine huyers tell me that it is hard work tasting 30 clarets before breakfast." David? "Yes." They would, wouldn't they? Sometimes, you need to be shallow, like me, to see the

He is, yes, an intensely shy and private man. He rarely gives profile interviews. I am only here today because, when I phoned the Sainsbury's press office to put in my request, I happened to tell them three things, all of which are true: I) My mother (whom I know I mentioned last week, and who is in danger of becoming a north London icoo) has shopped at the Golders Greeo branch of Sainsbury's for as long as anyone can remember; 2) My mother goes every Tuesday at 8.30am. (Should the birth of a grandchild, say, irritatingly interfere with her plans she will phone ahead to prevent them dispatching a missing persons bulletin); 3) When I graduated from university, I got a congratulations card signed "from the ladies behind the delicatessen counter, Sainsbury's, Golders Green". This, apparently, swung it for me. Indeed, when I enter David's office at his firm's London headquarters he says, first off, that they are actually thinking of exteoding the Golders Green store. Perhaps my mother should be consulted? He must get her details. (I later recount this to my mother, who now won't speak to any of her friends on the phone: GET OFF THE LINE LORD DAVID MIGHT BE TRYING TO GET

Anyway, I'd arrived at his office clutching a copy of that wonderful 1969 photograph of all the then Sainsbury board members sit-

Austin Powers, International Man of Mystery ("who?") while his father, Sir Robert Sainsbury, is sitting second from the front. If it is Sir Robert, that is. Indeed, I have brought the picture with me today because I have my doubts about this. As I tell David, the more I look at the picture the more it occurs to me that, in truth, your father is actually Captain Peacock from Are you Being Served? Admit it, David. You're Captain Peacock's secret love child, aren't you? He says.

"Are you being ... what?" I don't think David is very up on terrible Seventies' sitcoms. I had intended, at this point, to discuss whether Mrs Slocombe's pussy jokes would be less or more funny if you didn't see them coming so far in advance, but ultimately decided it would probably oot be in my best interests to do so. There is absolutely nothing splashy or colourful or jokey about David Sainsbury.

His suit is navy M&S. His tie is a plain stripe. He lives quietly and modestly with his wife, Susan, and their three daughters in west Londoo and the Cotswolds. The most extravagant thing he's ever done? "I once bought a Stubbs print of a horse being savaged by a tiger. It was quite expensive, but it was just before I got married, so was feeling happy."

His childhood wasn't especially splashy, either. Yes, of course his parents were very rich. His father, grandson of the founder, was a chairman of Sainsbury's in the Six-

markets. David is at the far end, looking very Grace Brothers. His mother, Liza, comes ly is art mad, heore the Sainsbury Wing at from a rich, Dutch margarine family. His mother is Jewish, yes, although not practising Jewish. "Her father was an atheist." Still, it explains why David looks rather like an Israeli geoeral in mufti and specs.

He was brought up to believe that mooey was fine, and lots of money was fine, but only so loog as you were responsible with it, only if you didn't throw it around. "If you went out to buy a sweater, you didn't buy the most expensive sweater, you bought the one that represented the best value for money." In short, good food costs less and all that? "Absolutely." No, as a Sainsbury, be doesn't get his weekly shop delivered by Daimler. "My wife goes every week and shops herself. It is very useful in terms of market research. She will come back and say, 'I thought the bacon looked awful'." Do you collect reward points? "Absolutely! Yes!" I forget to ask whether he spends them on

air miles or a discount on his BT bill. Perhaps, somewhere along the line, he also learned that is was unseemly to be emotionally frivolous or extravagant, too. Yes, he was a bookish child. Yes, he really was very interested in architecture at 10. No, he didn't realise his family was any different to any other until he went to Eton. "Theo I realised that not everyone had Francis Bacon on their walls "

His parents famously collected art - Bacon, Moore - but did not do so stupidly. They set aside a hudget of £1,000 a year, The National Gallery. But, no, David is not very into British modern stuff. He didn't, for example, bother with the recent Sensation exhibition at the Royal Academy. "I'm oot very interested. I just don't like it." We talk a bit about Tracy Emin's Everyone I Have Ever Slept With, which is basically a tent with, well, the names of everyone she has ever slept with stitched inside it. I say that if I were to do my own version, I would only oeed to erect a pocket hanky, if that. He

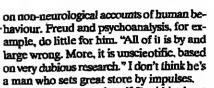
laughs. He is beginning to warm up quite

nicely, although I'm not sure whether to be

pleased or oot. I wasn't being serious, of

He went to Cambridge to study history, but packed it in mid-way and swapped to psychology. He was "bored" of churning out essays, he says, and had become excited by the scientific breakthroughs then taking place. "I met a whole group of new people, scientists, who were having a wonderful, exciting time. Crick and Watson were working down the road, so to speak. It was a world I knew nothing of. So I started reading up a bit, then found I wanted to do some science." He was, and still is, fascinated by the oeuro-physiology of the hrain. Yes, he does think we are the sum of what our brains are capable of. "And in the next 10, 20 years, we will really begin to uoderstand how the brain works, although I don't know if the mysterious thing that is consciousness will ever be explained." He is much less keen

David Sainsbury: 'Romantic, to me, means having a vision of something you pursue that is way beyond what is Photograph: David Rose



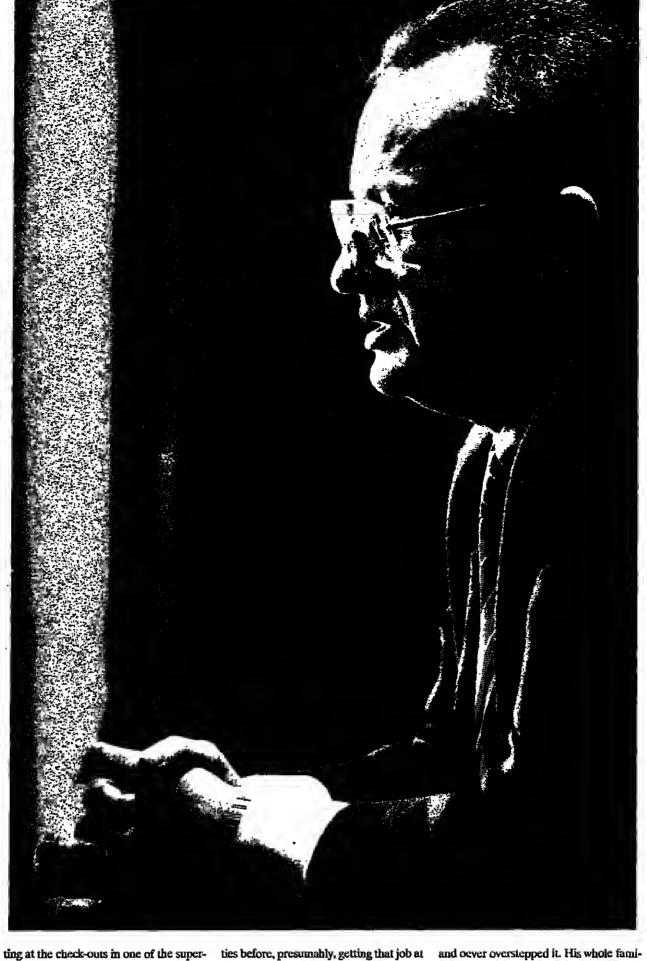
I am pretty sure that, if David had not beeo born a Sainsbury, he wouldn't have ended up a grocer. By this, I don't mean he has wasted his life in any way. I do think he has rather enjoyed it up to a point. But still, there are other things he might have enjoyed more. I put it to him: David, if you had not have been a Sainsbury, what would you have been? "Well, obviously, I have thought about this a lot." he replies. "I think I would have been a scientific researcher, a teacher, or the founder of a small high-tech husiness making obscure things for people."

He is a great philanthropist. He has a charitable foundation - The Gatsby Foundation - to which he recently donated £200m in Sainsbury shares. The foundation co-ordinates donations to causes such as health care, technical education and plant science. Some philanthropists are philanthropists because they feel guilty about what they have. I don't doubt David has a social conscience (he was a supporter of the oow defunct SDP before becoming a Blairite and giving the Labour Party an alleged £2m in the run-up to the election) hut, still, I think he probahly gives his mooey to the causes he does because, if he can't be an academic in some nice, quite, hackwater himself, then he will pay someone else to do it for him. And, yes, get some pleasure that way,

Anyway, the Gatsby Charitable Foucdation. Why 'Gatsby,' David? Because, he explains, Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby is one of his favourite books ever. Really, I cry, expressing astonishmeot. But Gatsby was the antithesis of you. Gatsby was an extravagant, playboy millionaire. "Yes, hut it's a great romantic book and I am a very romantic person." How are you using 'romantic' here, David? "Romantic, to me, means having a vision of something you pursue that is way beyond what is reasonable." No, not a grocer at heart, I think.

He is looking forward to his new life, yes. He will get involved with legislation. He hopes to be particularly active in matters to do with education and science. He has also recently funded a cognitive neuro-science unit at University College London. Plus, he will chair the new University for Industry, a government initiative designed to improve the skills of teenagers who leave school and do not attend further education. At Sainsbury's, this means that, for the first time ever, there is no family member heading it. This is sad, yes, but unavoidable. It was time for David to go off and do other things. The fact that no younger family members have expressed an interest in running the shop is fine with him. "I respect that the younger members want to do other things. It would be dreadful if they came into the business because they felt they had to." He would never say as much, but I'm pretty sure he might once have felt like that.

Anyway, we've had 90 minutes, and now be has to go. He has a meeting with his bankers. Oh David, I sigh, not that overdraft again. Although I know what it's like. You put your card in the cashpoint thingy and theo it just woo't give it back. So embar-rassing! He says: "That's never happened to me, actually." But he says it with a twinkle of amusement in his eye. He's hard work, yes, but worth it in the end. The best people usually are.



Can National Service really make a comeback?

George Robertson wants jobless people to join the Army. But he may have a fight on his hands. Mark Childs reports

rs to cut the Option - the attempt to get jobless youngsters to join the armed forces as part of the Government's New Deal to steer people back to work. Not content with offering the young unemployed training work in the voluntary sector, a place oo an environmeotal task force, or a job, ministers have succumhed to an impulse to corral the natioo's youth into military duty.

Sound familiar? It certainly does to those old enough to have takeo part in National Service. Io the years between 1947 and 1963, more than 2 million men took part in a somewhar pointless round of square-bashing, potato peeling es, but the thought that we

IT'S being called the Fifth and kit cleaning, with the promise of little else but a demob shit for serving Crown and

Not all conscripts escaped active service, however. Many were sent to the front-line, in one or other of the 57 "actions" in which Britain was involved between 1947 and 1963, from the Korean War to anti-insurgent campaigns in Cyprus, Malaya and Kenya.

"Action wasn't something particularly on our minds. says Bruce Kent, the former chairman of CND, who served in the Army from 1947 to 1949. "We were taught to bayonet-charge sandbags whilst yelling at the tops of our voic-



might be doing it to people just never occurred. The closest I came was a tour in Belfast, but that was keeping the civil peace, it wasn't warfare.

"You must remember, though, that I came from a public school background. I saw service as my duty as a loyal citizen, it was really the carrying over of an ethos from one institution to another. I was an unthinking part of the machine



and a committed and conscientious soldier."

The reason for the Fifth Option - put forward by George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence echoes that of the Labour Secretary of State for War. Lord Manny Shinwell, when he introduced National Service in 1947 - a shortage of recruits. Then, the country needed an extra 250,000; today, it is 9,000.



One man who revelled in the experience was the cootroversial Mancunian comic Bernard Manning, who was grenade throwers, all that kind conscripted in 1948. "Oh, it was of thing - but it was the discia wooderful time," he says, pline which was more impor-"some of the happiest days of tant. Coming from home my life. I was in the Mancheswhere your mam would be ter Regiment and I sang with cooking your dinner to standthe Regiment hand out in ing io a square having a sergeaot-major screaming

The greatest thing was the bloody murder in your face did comradeship, I still see pals I you a world of good."

conscription scheme could not work today . made during service. We did everything apart from fight they trained us with stee guns,

On parade: Bernard

Manning had some of the

happiest days of his life in

JG Ballard says it 'made

but Bruce Kent says a

the Manchester Regiment,

perfect sense at the time'.

in the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1949 to 1951. Both Bruce Keot and J G Ballard, the novelist believe that times have changed so much that it will be impossible to make such a scheme successful. "It made perfect sense at the time, after five years of war and when a great feeling of oational purpose remained," says Keot, "But you couldn't bring that back today

or even worse, by the boredom,

then a young man's Army days

could be made wretched by a

dose of venereal disease.

Young servicemen often had

with prostitutes in far-flung

corners of what remained of

the British Empire - as por-

trayed in The Virgin Soldiers, by

former National Serviceman

Leslie Thomas, who based his

novel on his time in Singapore

If his life wasn't made mis- in the military and theo throw erable by the sergeant-major, them back out to join the ratrace. It wouldn't work".

"For the majority," says Ballard, "National Service was a vast great headache which they were only to happy to get

their first sexual experiences out of." Any politician seduced by the idea will have to balance the disastrous PR of a conscript heing killed with the benefits of the military life - a framework of discipline and values missing from the lives of many youngsters, apparently.

"The argument that the military offers some system of moral probity does not hold water," says Ballard, "You just need to look at the example of our delightful squaddies out in Cyprus. The army is ultimatestructured to elicit an aggressive response from young men. I believe that squarebashing has been tried in these sharp, short, shock prisons anytrain people from 18 to 21 with- way without any great effect."

INDEPENDEN

ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE. CANARÝ WHARF, LONDON EL4 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435 THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Getting children back to school

"SOCIAL EXCLUSION" sounds like one of those phrases dreamt up by the European Commission bureaucracy and translated into English from the French via Danish. Which is, more or less, what it is. It was Euro-code for unemployment and poverty before being stolen by the tone-deaf wordsmiths of New Labour. Linguistics apart, however, the Prime Minister's Social Exclusion Unit is a bold attempt to cut across departmental lines and tackle the causes of inequality.

Today sees the unit's first report, concerning schools. For those who do not have the time to read the whole thing, Tony Blair provided a short summary in yesterday's News of the World. (At a rate of 1.5 articles per week since the election, he is surely the most prolific journalist prime minister ever.) His account, as with so much of Blairism, is a series of sensible ideas which add up to rather less than an attack on deep causes, in this case of truancy and - that euphemism again - exclusions (these used to be called expulsions, but this was presumably thought too direct). Children who bunk off school usually do so because they think it offers them little, and they are usually right. Mr Blair points ont that truants are more likely to leave school without qualifications and to be out of work at 18: it is precisely because many of them can see what is coming that they do not see the point of school.

Giving police the power to arrest truants is all very well, but it can only make sense if it can be shown that attending school is in the child's best interest. Mr Blair mentions in passing "making lessons more interesting and work-based", but a great deal more thought - and resources - needs to be devoted to basic literacy, owneracy and life-skills training for those who are heading for trouble. As for court orders requiring parents to escort their children to school, in any situation where this might be necessary, such an order is almost bound to be counter-productive. Symbolically, it might serve as a reminder that parents bear the primary responsibility for their children's education, but it should also be remembered that school is not compulsory in the United Kingdom and that it is up to parents to decide how their children should be educated. .

School expulsions are a different matter, although they are linked, in that some schools are quite happy if some of their more difficult pupils "disappear" during the day. The sharp rise in expulsions this decade has been driven by exam league tables and the growing power of schools to select their intake. Schools urgently need performance indicators which do not give them an incentive to dump time-consuming, low-achieving pupils. But they also need more staff if they are to take disruptive pupils out of classes. And, where pupils are expelled, more resources are needed to ensure that they are efficiently educated out of school and not left to roam the streets. More money is oot the answer to everything, but the beginnings of social exclusion at school age cannot be tackled without it.

The shift from bomb to ballot box

THE JOURNEY to peace in Northern Ireland has required many necessary evils. It was evil to negotiate with terrorists, but it had to be done. It was evil for a minister in a democratic government to visit the Maze prison and talk to killers, but it had to be done. It was evil to release early some terrorist prisoners convicted of lesser offences, but it had to be done. And it was evil to let out the murderers of the Balcombe Street Four to be acclaimed as returning heroes, albeit just for the day, by the Sinn Fein confereoce in Duhlin yesterday. But it was necessary.

These are, let us remind ourselves, the gang who murdered at least 16 people. Some of them admitted to the Guildford and Woolwich bombings in 1974. Wild cheering went on for more than 10 minutes with delegates, many in tears, stamping their feet and roaring their approval. Lord Tebhit, his quill dipped in acid, remarked that the Krays should have joined the IRA. There is some justice in that, but no understanding. If fewer people are killed as a result of the Good Friday Agreement, then the compromises made by the British and Irish governments will be justified.

Yesterday's show of emotion by Sinn Fein was a necessary part of securing the firmest possible republican endorsement of the Agreement. It was oot pleasant to hear Gerry Adams praise and honour the Balcombe Street gang, but it was part of shifting the psychology of the movement from bomb to ballot box. It jarred to hear Mr Adams describe Sinn Fein as a party of "Protestants and Dissenters" when its military wing for so long lent its name to sectarian hatreds. But what mattered yesterday was oot just that Sinn Fein endorsed the Good Friday Agreement but that it changed its constitution in order to take up seats in the new Northern Ireland assembly. In order to do that, its representatives have to renounce violence in categoric and permanent terms. Let us turn from past evils, theo, and look forward to the future with hope.

Equals in Eurovision

NOW THAT the Eurovision Song Cootest has gone the way of the Conservative Party, and disched a corrupt, narrowly-based voting system in favour of a wider democracy, it comes as a relief to discover that we have nothing to fear from the prejudices of the masses. It may not have been a great step forward for music, but it was a giant step for transsexuals. Even as an Israeli rabbi condemned Dana International for taking a "message of darkness" to Birmingham, the peoples of Europe (broadly defined) were phoning in their message of tolerance. In Britain, where the phone-in poll has become a byword for tabloid-incited censoriousness, this is the most unexpected feature of the popular verdict. As Ms International herself said: "This goes to show that the whole world is open-minded and liberated. We are all equal."



Fireworks lighting up the night sky on Saturday in St Petersburg, in celebration of the 53rd anniversary of VE Day. Darkness does not fall in Russia at this White Photograph: Alexander Demianchuk / Reuters Nights' time of year

LETTERS

Protecting our children

Sir: Banning a convicted child sex offender from attending any church services in the diocese of Sheffield "Churches close their doors to paedophile", 8 May) will not provide adequate protection for children.

This solution suggests that the only risk is from those who have already been convicted: it fails to address the possible danger posed by others who have not yet been found out, or who have not yet assaulted children but may do so in the future. Acting after the crime has been committed is no substitute for a preventative approach to child safety where working practices, procedures and safeguards are established to ensure children are routinely protected. .

Most people who sexually abuse children use manipulation and coercion rather than physical force, and exploit the social power which adults necessarily hold over children. In the church context, as in any other, the best protection we can offer children is to equip them with the social skills to deal with situations in which they feel deeply uncomfortable or threatened, and to seek adult intervention. This is not an easy task, but it has to

he faced. Finally, of course, one should not underestimate the challenge which such offenders present to any concept of forgiveness. Of course the Church of England would be wrong to employ this individual in a role where he had access to children, but excluding him from a community of faith and denying his right freely to regard this as a congenial reminder celebrate his religion surely reduces rather than enhances his opportunities for reflection, repentance and rehabilitation. LIZ PARRATT

Liberty

Role of the monarchy

Sir: The Extra Chaplain to the Queen may have a couple of kangaroos loose in the top paddock. The "live process" to which Canon Eric James refers ("Is it now time to elect becoming independent of Britain and system I prefer. free of the monarchy" actually happened on 1 January 1901, following London E4 two referenda which were a trifle

London this week. The Australian constitution was sent sovereign. Indeed the sovereign years. When the Queen intended vis- end of a presidential term? iting in 1954, it was realised that the BEATRICE STEMP constitution had so effectively stripped the British monarch of all powers that she was unable to perform any of the formal functions we

had requested of her. Heads of state live in their own countries and are paid, housed, secured and fêted in their own countries. They have a hands-on, day-to-day role in their own governments and they represent their own countries when they travel overseas. The British monarch does none of these things for Australia, and Australia has never paid taxes or tribute to Britain.

The Queen is our sovereign, not our head of state. She reigns but does not rule over us. Her sole remaining function in Australia is to appoint or remove our Governor-General oo the advice of our own democratically elected prime minister. Most of us of our remarkable constitutional development.

GLENISTER SHEIL Leader, Queenslanders for a Constitutional Monarchy London SWI

Sir: It is not monarchy which is a lottery, but republicanism. An American journalist told me receotly that not only could she not predict who the next US president might be, she couldn't even name the candidates. Britain's next head of state, oo the other hand, has been trained for his

the monarchy?", 8 May) of "Anstralia future role from birth. I know which Rise of the super-class W DENIS WALKER

Sir: Ben Pimlott suggests (article, 9 more defining than the one held in May) that a referendum on the monarchy at the end of a reign might written with a view to having an ab- be a good idea. Surely, then, republics should offer their people the Tonbridge, Kent

> Sir: Ann Widdecombe criticises the Church of England for "failure to concentrate on the spiritual, and having an eternal desire to interfere in politics" (report, 9 May). I can't believe she can have read the New Testameot thoughtfully, for there every sphere of our lives attracts the scrutiny and comment of our Lord. Does she suppose he was crucified for his "spiritual" attitudes and comments? The Rev Canon PAUL GODDARD Polruan-by-Fowey, Cornwall

Sir. Canon Eric James, 73, mentions abdication as an honourable option for the monarch as old age encroaches. Might one not therefore respectfully suggest that, as a senior clergyman who officially retired three years ago, he avail himself of this option and withdraw from public controversy gracefully and noiselessly? The Rev Canon SIMON BLOXAM-ROSE Street, Somerse

Sir: The reaction of the Palace to Canon Eric James's reasoned and reasonable analysis ("Palace drops hint that chaplain should resign", 9 May) was all ton predictable. "Ils n'ont rien appris, ni rien oublié", as Talleyrand said of the failing Bourbon dynasty.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Sir. Most parents want their children to have the best possible start in life. The moneyed classes have been able to send their children to the best private schools, give them the best materially, and provide the best social, political and economic networks. Now they will he able to give body possible ("Designer baby fears after 50 screeoed births", 7 May).

We can expect a small group of super-people with altered genes to claim their right to rule because they are genetically superior and rich. I am certain that this new technology will be used to enhance social prejudices. How can the rest of society - the vast majority - ever compete?

Ottawa, Canada

Apathy at the elections

Sir: For last week's local elections, in my ward, only one of four candidates bothered to announce themselves to the electorate. It would be difficult to vote for someone without even knowing their name, much less what they would support and oppose. Apathy on the part of the electorate is hardly surprising in the face of such apathy among the candidates. ADRIAN WILLSON

Basingstoke, Hampshire

Sir: On what evidence can Susan Estersoo (letter, 9 May) write that 'most people who voted 'No' did so because they would end up paying out more money for bureaucracy"? I was one of the 478,413 who voted "No". The reason? I wanted to see a democratic London authority. Unfortunately, the Government's proposals will give us the opposite. LEN ALDIS London E3

Floods in Venice

Sir: 1 would agree with Rafael Bras (letter, 2 May) that inaction endangers the city of Venice, but let us not adopt the wrong solution simply because that solution is - unwisely - enshrined in Italian legislation.

The proposed flood gates will have to close much more frequently in the future than now, given sea level rise. That closure will hinder navigation, and create a major pollution hazard. So those issues will have to be tackled, and solved.

But if we can tackle and solve those problems, for example by moving the port traffic elsewhere and ring Venice, let us begin to plan to do so now. In the meantime we can solve 90 per cent of the flooding problems with the small-scale flood works that are being constructed:

Then the gates will only prevent damage from the rarer large floods, which will in any case be less serious now than in 1966, because Venetians have moved upstairs. Buttheir cost is excessive for this role: no rational comparison of costs. and benefits would lead to their implementation.

What Venice oceds is a broader perspective and an enduring solution. It is inevitable that the lagooo will have to be isolated progressively from the Adriatic but this oceds a permanent scheme, not movable gates. Until now the gates have been seen as "the only solution". They are not. **EDMUND PENNING-ROWSELL** Professor of Geography University of Middlesex

Out of the frying pan...

London N11

Sir: I too am a football-loathing male seeking to escape the World Cup. If Lucy Maurice (letter, 8 May) would care to join me during the apposite period she will be assured of good (home-cooked) food, fine wines, excellent conversation... and Test Match Special.

EDWARD HERITAGE Quainton, Buckinghamshire

How to get ahead in broadcasting: look at the questions in advance



I WAS a bit surprised at the weekend while watching the most recent edition of Have I Got News For You?, when Paul Merton roused himself from his usual sleepy-eyed attitude of watchful torpor and waxed indignant over something that Norman Tebbit had said in the Daily Mail.

I was surprised on several grounds. One, that Tebbit wrote in the Mail. Two, that Merton bothered to read it. Three, that Merton ever got worked up about things, at least oo air. Most of the time he spends semislumped, trying to avoid eye contact with the uncongenial team partner he has been lumbered with, in this case Patrick Moore. But what had got him enliveoed, even if temporarily, was a disparaging remark by Tebbit to the effect that that he didn't believe the exchanges on Have I Got News? were spontaneous. Tebbit had said, apparently, that the wit was so thick and fast 00 Have I Got News? that a lot of it was

prepared in advance. Merton pulled a long face at this, said something disdainful and then said: "That was live! That was actually an ad lib!" and everyone dutifully laughed.

I find this all a bit odd. What Tebbit wrote was actually a compliment. He said the programme was so funny it must be scripted. To say that something is scripted is oot an insult. Maybe it is slightly insulting if the people on the programme are pretending it's impromptu, but pleoty of programmes which pretend to be impromptu are clearly pre-planned (Blind Date, I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue and so on - good heavens. even on the old Gardener's Question Time the experts were given advance sight of the questions). No wonder we use the expression "off the cuff" to mean "genumely spontaneous" when it actually means "written down on your cuff in advance". Perhaps we cannot tell the difference any more.

What is also odd is that Merton should feel offended by what Tebbit wrote in the Mail, which was pure supposition, but not, apparently, by what Boris Johnson has writ-

teo in the current Spectator, which is firsthand and much more condemnatory. Johnson, the Telegraph columnist, was a guest on Have I Got News? receotly, and was given something of a going over by Ian Hislop over some long-forgotten episode with Darius Guppy. Johnsoo, however, let this pass (as he would have been wise to do on the programme) and concentrated his amazed wrath on the amount of preparation that goes into the supposedly unrehearsed programme, preparation which he had actually observed and not, like Tehbit, merely suspected.

Johnson seems never to have done any television before, as he was amazed by the amount of retakes that had to be done, the amount of supposedly off-the-cuff stuff that Angus Deayton read from autocue, the time it took to film enough stuff to make half an hour, the drudgery to which the audience is subjected. This is all pretty normal for TV. But what especially disturbed Johnson was how little chance they were giv-

eo to do anything ad lib: "Two hours beforehand we were shown the questions. We were shown all the sequences, the odd-manouts, the headlines, the lot. We were allowed back to our dressing rooms to collude. Yes, Paul Merton and Ian Hislop, those demigods of the tart rejoinder, go into that show with their lines spread in froot of them pages of stuff - as if eotering a scripture exam with lists of the Kings of Judah in the shirt-sleeves...

If this is true, and I can't see why it shouldn't be, then it seems a little oaive of Paul Merton to get worked up during the programme about accusations of not adlibbing, or even to mention them. Have I Got News? is clearly presented as a spontaneous, noprepared programme. It is equally clearly nothing of the sort. I am told by normally reliable sources that some comedians who have appeared on the programme have not only been shown the questions in advance, but have brought their own scriptwriters with them in order to work up topical jokes for

them. If the result is good, does it matter? There is, oddly, a parallel to Paul Mertoo's denial of pre-planning and prescripting. No. not the Carlton TV Colombian drug thing. It is Robin Cook's denial. of pre-knowledge of a Sierra Leone arms. link. I know nothing of West African arms deals, but I feel instinctively that the man on Radio 4's Broadcast House was right when he said that whether or not the Foreign Office was doing a good job over Sierra Leone and backing the right side - and they probably were - it was correct for Robin Cook to claim ignorance of the whole thing, though he almost certainly was in touch. So there we have it. Paul Merton is the

Robin Cook of comedy. Or is Robin Cook the Paul Merton of foreign policy? To put it another way, one is as unliketo say, "Yes, I knew all about the arms

deal in advance and I think we did the right thing" as the other is unlikely to say, "Yes, I knew all about the questions in advance and I think I made up the right jokes."

Wanted: a defender for Whitehall's wily ways



DAVID WALKER CIVIL SERVANTS AND SIERRA LEONE

THERE is a guilty politician at the heart of the arms to Sierra Leone affair.

Yet the woman concerned, Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, stands accused not for anything she may or may oot have done in her role as Foreign Office minister in the

Her sin stems from her previous incarnatioo as leader of the top civil servants' union, the First Division Association. What Liz Symons, as she then was, did not do was say - publicly - that the shock-horror response to the conduct of civil servants as described in the Scott inquiry into arms for Iraq was cotirely misplaced. All the judge did was characterise Whitehall's commoo culture. That's how it is in the upper branches of the great oak of state. They sit there, on her shelves, the many volumes of Scott, and all their analysis of what it is that civil servants do has oever once been registered as accurate - and appropriate - by those responsible for tending the ethic of public service.

It's not just her, of course. Those same volumes also squat on the shelves in the masters' lodging at University College, Oxford, to which by Establishment magic Cabinet Secretary Robin Butler was translated oo his retirement last year. Where was his programmatic statement to follow the Scott report on arms for Iraq?

His successor as head of the civil service. Sir Richard Wilson, is supposed to be coosidering another Scott finding, about the deadweight of departmentalism in modern British government - something Tooy Blair desper-ately needs to break down if his cross-cutting social policy initiatives are to have a chance of success. But Sir Richard has turned out to be a mandarin mute: oo publie speeches, oo presence among his colleagues who, following their ministers, bed daily ever deeper in their departmental fastnesses.

Labour has inherited a civil service without a soul. Officials applauded Tony Blair's triumphal entry into Downing Street. They told themselves this was the democratic system working well, alternating governments just as in the old days. Yet they know a host of profound questions about management and responsibility raised during the Tory years need answering, still. The official doctrine - from Eighties Cahioet Secretary Sir Robert Armstrong - that they are the mere creatures of their ministers, doing what they are told and no more was and remains one of the most callow and ineffective statements of their pur-

Already the Sierra Leone affair offers two to usurp popular decision-making.

lessons. The first - bad oews for all those (T Blair included) who want maximum coordinatioo and coherence across the face of government - is that our system is remarkably plural and veers towards the anarchic. Departmentalism does rule OK.

Here we have HM Customs and Excise. a department within the Treasury but one with its own legislative existence and remarkably strong esprit de corps, investigating the cooduct of fellow officials in the Foreign Office. It is highly unlikely the Chancellor of the Ex-chequer was told what Customs were doing. Is that a testimony to the political naivety of Valerie Strachan, Customs' head, or ringing endorsement of her independence? Responses so far, including public puzzlement that one group of civil servants can so embarrass another, suggest that somebody in a high place needs urgently to set out the ratiooale for government's internal diversity.

The second revelation entirely confirms the finding of Sir Richard Scott that throughout Whitehall, but especially in the Foreign Office, a cavalier attitude towards parliamentary reporting prevails. Conventional wisdom, especially of the kind cultivated by backbench MPs who are too lazy to find things out for themselves or equip the House of Commons with proper investigatory powers, says this is

A more considered response is that highly-paid, elever civil servants working within the bounds of policy (however lightly sketched by their ministers) ought to be allowed an arena of discretion in which to work. Does that amount to "private" policy making? Well, so much of policy is actually made by triangular agreemeots between interest groups, ministers and officials with the press and Parliament as occasional bystanders. Is that really cootempt of democracy?

It is - but only because oo one in power ever stops to defend a more sophisticated, subtle conception of power in our kind of society, Perhaps the British newspaper press being what it is, such "Machiavellianism" is impermissible. But the effort occds to be made.

It would certainly help if the Prime Minister were capable of articulating the idea that full transparency, total parliamentary accountability just don't work. But that does not mean the eod of democracy. It means creating political space in which discretionary action by officials is supported. It is striking how, in his project for constitutional modernisation, Mr Blair has so far had nothing at all to say about the place of poblic servants in the new order, let alone what their ethic should

We live, these days, in a Defargist political culture - somebody's head has got to roll before the political spectacle is declared over. There may, in the Sierra Leooe case, have been mistakes made which deserve censure. More likely eveots can he explained by reference to a conception of power-holding and civil service which embraces a degree of discretion on the part of officials. Is it wrong ... do we want senior civil servants to behave like ciphers who get ministerial signatures on every piece of paper and tell MPs everything in every way? If we do, let's have that said and Cabinet Secretary and First Division Association make public professions that they are only there do to as they are told, never to think for themselves. Until then, let's not mistake worldly exercise of state power in practical situations of great complexity for some plot

How many more will die hungry before United Nations rules are changed?

RICHARD DOWDEN

FAMINE RELIEF IN SUDAN

HERE we go again. Starving Africa pictures on television. This time in Sudan - again. Hundreds of thousands of people, maybe a million, face starvation. And here, in the oext frame, are the aid workers telling us how bad it is but how, with our help, they can save lives. Bob Geldof is back in husiness, too, suggesting that the Red Cross send an expediconary force of aid workers to solve the problem. In the newspaper the aid agencies use the most ghastly picture of hunger as advertisements to press bome their pleas for money.

Once again the circle is complete. The aid agencies call the televisino stations, give them free lifts to the hunger zone and tell the story. We watch, our hearts are touched and the aid agencies recoup their efforts and expenses in a fund-raising appeal. A benign circle? It seems like one but for the lack of an answer to this question; are the television stations and the aid agencies telling the whole truth about this famine?

No. The famine in Sudan is in one province, Bahr el Ghazal and it has been caused, quite deliberately, by ooe man, Kerubino Kuanyin Bol.

Bahr el Ghazal bas been in the froot line of the north-south civil war in Sudan for 15 years. It was already sinking below subsistence level. Last year Mr Kerubino, a rebel commander from Barh el Ghazal, defected to the side of the Sudanese governmeot. With its blessing he spent the rest of the year razing his own region, killing hundreds of people and stealing their cattle, food and seed corn. His savagery forced thousands more to flee from their homes with only what food they could carry. Then in February this year when the survivors most occded food aid and seeds to plant for this year's harvest, the Islamist government in Khartoum refused the United Nations permission to fly to Bar el Ghazal. The ban lasted two months. The result - famine. Keruhino, nicknamed "the

Fool" in Bahr el Ghazal, meanwhile changed sides again, largely because he was not given a sufficiently important title



Relief operations intended to save them may be complicit in their plight

by the government. He has been welcomed back by the rebel movement, the Sudan People's Liberation Army, SPLA, though in Bahr el Ghazal, not surprisingly, they want

him dead. The UN and the aid agencies were aware last year of the depredations of Kerubino and new that the flight ban by the Khartoum government would probably mean a lot of people would starve. But in Sudan the UN's humanitarian operation. known as Operation Lifeline Sudan, operates only by agreement with both the Khartoum government and the SPLA. Under the agreement drawn up in 1991 between the UN, the government of Khartoum and the rebels, the UN and aid agencies working under its um-

brella, must have permission

from both sides before they can

move a grain of food to a starving village. Every single aid flight, its destination, exact content and personnel accompanying it are subject to inspection - and so the whim -

The UN is reduced to a puppet being jerked around by both sides

of government and rebels, including of course Mr Kerubioo and his ilk. The main aim of both sides

is to direct as much food aid as possible in the direction of their own troops and as little as

possible to areas where the other side might benefit. The UN is reduced to a puppet being jerked around by both sides having to balance the provision of real need to an area on the one side with a dubious delivery to the other. The government is worse at imposing restrictions oo Operatioo Lifeline Sudao than the SPLA but both armies help themselves to UN aid. To this extent the UN and the aid agencies have fed this 15 year-long war.

If the price for this was that the civilians in Sudan were also fed, it would be worth paying but they are not. Worse, the rules of Operation Lifeline Sudan prevent the UN telling the truth about the causes of starvation and the truth about people like Kerubino. When he was laying waste to Bahr el

Ghazal the UN was silent. In

February the government's ban on food aid to Bahr el Ghazal was mentioned only twice in UN publicity and only as a "cause for concero", hardly the sort of language to create the scale of outrage needed to create international pressure on the Khartoum government to get the ban lifted. Only now when the Khartoum government sense bad publicity from pictures of starving people does it choose to allow the UN to make more flights into South Sudan. And the reaction of the UN? An unctuous thank-you to Khartoum for its "timely approval".

Operation Lifeline Sudan, oow nine years old, has failed to deliver food when and where it was needed even though it knew famine was developing. Unlike some, I am not ooe of those who believe that the aid husiness looks after its own interests by deliberately waiting till people start dying before they bring in the cameras. But I do believe that in South Sudan. Operation Lifeline Sudan is in danger of complicity in famine.

So wby doesn't the UN just tear up the book of rules, ignore the Khartoum government and the rebels and fly food when and where it is oeeded, dariog the government to shoot the planes out of the sky? That is what some small aid agencies operating outside the Operation Lifeline Sudan do, and they find pilots and companies willing to risk their lives and planes to do so. Not one has been shot down so far.

The problem is national sovereignty. UN rules insist that the authority of the Sudan government is respected even though it has not ruled some of those southern regions for 15 years. It is elear now that they never will again. Whether or not the south splits off as an independent state, the Arabised Muslim north will never again be able to dominate the south.

That makes Sudan a "failed state" and until a oew dispensation is sorted out, the UN should regard it as such. It should reject the "sovereignty of the Khartoum government outside areas it does not control. Instead it should mandate its aid agencies to intervene for humanitarian purposes whenever and wherever necessary.

A more determined UN which spoke truth and recognised reality instead of diplomatic nieeties might also find donors more willing to provide the funds it desperately needs. The author writes for The

Pop won't make a perfect summer for the Prommers

David Lister says the BBC needs Barenboim's baton more than Bob Marley's beat

SHORTLY before he retired as director of the Proms, Sir John Drummond fired a broadside at the rowdy element among fans of the summer concert series those who shouted out silly rhymes, made an exhibition of themselves and generally showed a lack of respect for great music performed by the world's most famous ensembles. He didn't have in mind his

successor, Nicholas Kenyon. But the man in charge of both the Proms and BBC Radio 3 has a curious way of publicising such a sustained concentration of symphonie and chamber music.

When booking opens oext week the biggest attraction, to judge from press reports let alone the Proms' office, will he the songs of Bob Marley and a Yank singing Rule Britannia. Last year Mr Kenyoo's hig sensation - as per the advance publicity-was a performance of the music of John Lennoo and Paul McCartney.

Io the event Beethoven won't be turning in his grave. All that happened last year was that the King's Singers performed a few Beatles times at a late night concert - Ringo did

not turn up. All that will happen this year is that in another late night coocert Black Voices, an unaccompanied female outfit, will sing some protest songs, including a few Bob Marley oumbers. As for the American, it's the baritone Thomas Hampson, a wellknown figure oo the interoational opera circuit, whose main purpose on the Last Night is to sing a medley from George Gershwin.

Even so, the inclusion of the Beatles and Bob Marley at the Proms is a bad idea. Primarily because audiences are not getting the Beatles or Bob Marley. Their songs are being filtered through acceptable and respectable ensembles, which won't attract rock fans who want the rawness of the origi-

oals. But nor are they expected to attract classical music lovers The fact that Mr Kenyon has again programmed his pop pastiche late at night demonstrates he doesn't really see it as part of the Proms se-

So why shout about it? Why is the BBC publicity machine encouraging oational oewspapers (with some success) to write stories about it? The only possible answer is that the people who run the Proms have lost faith. They no looger have sufficient confidence in the very raison d'être of the festival classical music. Music, good music, it seems can't he trusted to make oews.

So we have the absurd paradox that for the second year running middle-of-the-road

pop music is used to sell a festival that has a superb array of new commissions, world premieres, exciting soloists, a daylong event based on choral music, family concerts and

Proms In The Park. Interestingly, in Mr Kenyon's own foreword to the Proms' hrochure there is oo mention of Marley. He is rightly more excited about visits by the Chicago Symphooy Orchestra with Daniel Bareoboim, the Berlin Philharmonic with Claudio Abbadn and the Los Angeles Philharmonic with Esa-Pekka Salonen.

Wouldn't it he refreshing if he announced them as the "story" for the Proms this year. Barenboim and Abbado are going to be of far more interest

to the people likely to book tickets than Bob Marley. Perhaps Mr Kenvon is a creature of a system. He has not had the easiest time adapting Radio 3 in the face of Classic FM. Yet here is an expert former music critic as well as an informative, entertaining and didactic authority. Instead of displaying a faint but uoworthy unease about classical music by foreyer trying (and failing) to "liven it up" with pop references, the BBC should make greater use of Kenyon's enthusiasm.

He should be out there propagandising and persuading, telling us about the themes running through the Proms. what qualities Barenboim beings to the podium and what is the especial brilliance of the British choral tradition.



£10 helps set bears free

In India, tiny bear cubs are stolen from their mothers to become 'dancing' bears. This bear's sensitive nose was pierced and a coarse rope forced through the hole. Now he has to dance for hours with raw, bleeding feet, in the agonisingly hot sun, terrified by the crowds and traffic.

WSPA rescues bears and takes them to sanctuaries where they can live as natural a life as possible. But we can't carry out our work without the support of people like you. Your gift of £10, or whatever you can afford, will help save animals' lives. Please send your donation today.

nation in: WSPA, Dept AL552, Freepoet NH2604 Northempton, NH3 881 No stamp is needed. THANK YOU.

Reg Charty No. 282908

Yes, I want			ves!	
Наше				
Address				
		P(steade	
Here is my done	etion of £	,		
(Piesse make cher Viss/MesterCard/S	gues payable i	to WSPA or con	nplete the credit	card details bek
(Presse Cartally 36 applica				posteri.
Card No.				
Expiry data		itch issue no	Today's	date/_
Tick here if you Please send this co	would like a :	ree stamaten	paci.	

Vanity Publishing

THE cover of the latest issue of Vanity Fair screams "The German Assault On US Publishing". Pandora was amused. Is Vanity Fair owned by Si Newhouse, the same American billionaire who sold off Random House last March for \$1.4 billion to the Germans at Bertelsmann AG? Yes indeed, but the VF article devotes only a few lines to the Random House sale while concentrating on Bertelsmann's much smaller German rival Dieter von and Scientific American magazine. The VF article contains fascinating ironies, including a quote from very money-minded company" as op- to feed our troops. Supposedly un-

posed to Holtzbrinck's "cultural interest in protecting literature". So exactly what was Si Newhouse protecting when he "surrendered" to the "German assault" and made a fortune selling Random Honse - a corporation that includes venerable British publishing names like Jonathan Cape, The Bodley Head and Chatto &

John's Bull

Holtzbrinck, owner of UK publishers PUTTING his tastebuds on the front Macmillan, several US publishers line, Junior Defeace Minister John Spellar asked an MoD chef to whip up a very private beef lanch for him a week ago. The meat was drawn from Holtzbrinck's corporate spokesman frozen EU intervention stocks, which that slags off Bertelsmann as being "a the Government is keen to purchase

tainted by "mad cow" disease, intervention beef stores are maintained by the EU to support price levels. Bulk frozen beef is apparently hard to find in Britain; the MOD buys huge quantities from Argentina. But Pandora wonders if the squaddies will accept their British steaks as completely safe and CJD-free? Oh well, John Spellar found the bull delicious.

Night and Day?

BLACK and white? Hot and cold? Pandora cannot find a metaphor to adequately portray the distinct con- Israeli Messerschmitts on bombing official letters will be in lilac envelopes.

trast between two recently-resigned Whitehall PR flacks. Andy Wood, the former Northern Irish Office public relations officer, wasted oo time after his departure before selling his attack on Mo Mowlam to the Sunday Times. Meanwhile, Sheila Thompson, who resigned from Lord Irvine's service recently, has turned down several fat tabloid offers to savage Derry.

Home Alone

THE only British pilot to fly with the Israeli air force in their 1947 war for independence, Gordon Levett, 77, returned to celebrate Israel's 50th anniversary last week. The ex-RAF WWII squadron leader, who is a gentile, had flown German-designed

idilly. I know why. In a ing dow tiny way, I herped build this country." Harriet's Hint

missions with a squadron that con-

tained today's Israeli President Ezer

Weizman. "I still feel more at home

down Ben-Gurion

i told the New York

do in England walk-

here w

Street,"

IN KEEPING with the Government's obsession with "presentation", Harriet Harman has put her foot down about a mailing to 500,000 single mothers set for June 15th. Harriet is concerned that her plea to join the "New Deal for Lone Parents" will be ignored if it arrives in the usual brown Government wrapper. Thus the

Lord Mellish

Whip after seven hectic years in government, in opposition, and in government again.

Mellish had been the cement that prevented the Labour Par- surrounded by portraits of his ty from being split asunder over entry into the European Common Market when 69 pro- could not find a better or more Europe Labour MPs (of whom I was one) went into the same man failings. Ian Mikardo, his lobby as Ted Heath, on 28 Oc-constituency neighbour but vettober 1971, and the government woo entry into the European and the Left who had been quite Common Market by 356 to appalled at Mellish's original ap-244 votes. A convinced promarketeer himself, he operated loyally on behalf of the par- peg in a round hole." ty policy, which at that time opposed entry to the EEC.

It was a remarkable feat of political management, matched survived) of a docker. His father only by his wheeling and dealing in government on such delicate issues as the £6 limit oo wages agreed by Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon, the closed shop, the Dock Labour Scheme, and compulsory introduction of comprehensive schools.

He did this with a mixture of natural guile, disguised as Cockney plain-speaking, and earthy assessment of character and motive, laced with the humour beloved Millwall Football Club. He was the authentic voice of working-class Dockland London, and speaking in the docks on the day he gave up his job he explained to the British Leather Federation that he had held the job for seven years but At the end of the war he was in it had seemed like seventy.

On his appointment in 1969 it was thought that he would be One of the reasons for his good a hully. Indeed, on the evening that news of it went like wildfire round the corridors of type of Londoo patriot who Westminster, the conventional wisdom was that Wilson had lost working-class Labour MP. But his prime ministerial marbles. another part of the Tory ac-"Boh Mellish! Chief Whip? ceptance of Mellish was the Christ!" One can only use his own favourite expression.

turn out to be. What he could not abide were those "bleedin' bastards" who voted against the party either without warning him or for some kind of perceived self-advantage within

Mellish had a multitude of difficult people with whom he had to deal - the late John Stooehouse, and John Ryman, November 1946 an electorate of in those years was inside the

signed as Government Chief who failed to vote for five months, were only two examples. Yet go to Bob Mellish and talk to him sitting down at his desk once owned by Disraeli, "King's Man" since 1750, one

predecessors as Chief Whip or understanding ductor for hueran of the National Executive pointment, later described him as "to a perfect degree a round

Robert Mellish was born in 1913 in Bermondsey, the 13th of 14 children (of whom only six had taken a promineot part in the 1899 dock strike and that of 1912 led by the legendary Ben Tillett. Much influenced by the family circumstances where scarlet fever and meningitis had accounted for more than half his siblings, Mellish devoted time to the work of East End hospital

boards throughout his life. Through his father's influence he started work at the office of the newly formed of the Den - the ground of his Transport and General Workers' Union at Stratford on the very evening he left school.

He was called up in the Sec-

ond World War as a sapper. On sheer nous and eoergy he worked himself up to the rank of major in the Royal Engineers. South East Asia taking part in the battles against the Japanese. relations with the Tories was that they thought he was exactly the should be the quintessential recognition that he and they had fought in the same war, side by A hully he certainly did not side against the same enemy. Danger together on the hattlefield mellows criticism of others with whom one disagrees politically.

> In 1946, out of the political blue, the Rt Hon Sir Ben Smith, Member of Parliament for Rotherhithe from 1923 until 1931 and again from 1935, resigned. At the by-election on 19

In April 1976, Bob Mellish re- the fox-hunting Labour MP only 22,000 gave Mellish 7,265 votes to the 2,821 of the Liberal Ed Martell and 1,084 for the Conservative candidate Freddy Burden, later Conservative MP for Gillingham.

Mellish gave his maiden the Transport Bill:

I said I have a mandate to support the Bill, and I wish to make this very clear to the Minister and Honourable Members opposite. I recently fought a by-election in a constituency in which 60 per cent of the male population are engaged in transport. It is a rather noticeable feature that

very seldom do we talk of the people who work in the industry. Usu-ally we are only concerned with stock-holders, or people who own various interests, but never of the people who work in the industry. They are a very important factor, in the division I represent, more than 60 per cent are actually employed in transport, in some form or another. I made it very clear til them in my election address, and in speeches on the platform, that I was in favour of the Government's proposals to na-

t was opposed in this by-election by a Conservative (Freddy Burden), a charming man who fought a clean fight. But he was batting on a sticky wicket. He made it equally clear that he was opposed in the nationalisation of transport in any way at all. To use his own words, he wanted the in-dustry to be onfettered and free. The result we know. I was elected a Member of Parliament and be lost his deposit, and was at the bottom of the poll. So t have a right to say that I come here as a supporter of this Bill in its entirety, and with a mandate that gives me the right to go into the lobby and indicate my support.

Mellish told me that he was a bit lost at first and this was why as Chief Whip he took a lot of trouble to be kind to new members. In 1950 he became Parliamentary Private Secretary to George Strauss, the Minister of Supply, and then, hacked by. Herbert Morrison, still boss of London, PPS to George Isaacs, Minister of Pensions hetween January and November 1951.

The tiny electorate of Rotherhithe -21,952 as a result of the Blitz - was expanded io 1950 to the oew seat of Bermondsey with over 40,000 electors. In the opposition years Mellish tried to distance himself from both the Bevanite and the Gaitskellite factions of the party by supporting the "keep calm" group which was established as a balance to "keep left". However his real activity

Londoo Labour Regional Par- created the bond between Meli-

become the Chairman in 1956. Sardonically, the Mellish school of chairmanship was described to me by the late counspeech on 16 December 1946 on cillor Ellis Hillman of Hackney: Mellish's conduct went like this. You turn the bloody mike off and then row with your left-wing oppo-nents from the Chair and you finalby get the conference to take a vote to move yourself from the Chair and put the motion from the Chair. All those in favour - half a dozen hands. All those against - woof, see! Get off the bloody platform and then bring the stewards in.

> From other people's descriptions this was not wholly unfair. Oo gaining power in 1964 Harold Wilson had the inspiration of teaming up the London docker with the Oxford intellectual Richard Crossman at the Ministry of Housing, At first it seemed like fire and water, but in fact Mellish came quickly to have an affection and -with reservations -a high re-

gard for Crossman who gave him charge of the important first bill, "Protection from Eviction", which was about the Rachmanism of the time. Speaking on the report stage, Mellish said: In a case where the deceased tenant has left no widow but has left more were residing with him at the time of his death - say, two daughters - the owner cannot enforce his right to pos-session without a County Court order as long as either daughter remains in occupation or in residence. The owner, in applying to the court ne hoth daughters as defendant

This was the kind of issue that mattered to Mellish. He recalled his own mother as soft and very gentle. "I haven't a complaint about the conditions it didn't seem like it then." However he didn't want the conditions his mother had had to face secood half of the 20th century. He was immensely concerned about issues such as dampness and slum clearance and was determined to do

authorities.

everything possible to bring the

work of the building research

station to the attention of local

ty, of which he was to chair com- ish as Parliamentary Secretary mittees and of which he was to and the formidable Dame Evelyn Sharp, who was Permanent Secretary in the department. Early in his career at the Ministry on 18 November 1964. I remember sitting behind Mellish, whose PPS I was, as he said: I can do no better than quote from two letters which I have received consequent on the introduction of the Protection from Eviction Bill. The first letter is from a tenant who lives at Bow in East London. "As tenants evictions as in be nearly driven out of our minds and made ill with worry, I cannot say how thankful we were in see the present Government's laws to stop evictions; it is like a hideous nightmare coming to an end." An-other letter comes from Chelsen. "We were all so happy to hear of the new Bill being passed to stop tenants like ourselves being made homeless ... many families in this road are over 60 and received out notices from our new landlord after being bere for two to three generations. The passing of the new laws means everything to ten-

> Mellish observed that if the Labour Government had dooe nothing else this bill would give relief to the sort of people who were wide open to pressure in their homes.

ants here and the relief from tension

can be seen in their faces.

The development of the relationship between Crossman. the upper-class ideologue from Oxford, and Mellish, the working-class pragmatist from London's Dockland, grew and was fascinating. In 1967 when Crossman became Lord President of the Council, Mellish was promoted to Minister of Works, where he got on very well with the building industry. From personal experience over the controversy of materials to build the runway at the staging post atoll of Aldabra in the Indian Ocean I know how painstaking he was of my childhood," he told me, in questioning officials as to "I lived in a slum, I suppose, but whether the brief given to him constituted the full story.

A book could be written about Mellish's seven years as to be the lot of anybody in the Chief Whip from 1969 to 1976. He was, however, true to his word that he never sneered or jeered at the Conservatives "because I know how frustrating Oppositioo is". Mellish was a team player. It was a question of my government right or wrong. His loyalty to Harold Wilson was unshakeable. The Prime Minister Indeed it was his concern is a soft and very decent man, al-

weakness. f believe it's a friends. His division record is as good as most back-benchers. f am oot a sycophant, but I do re-

spect and admire him." On several occasions Mellish asked Wilson to release him from what seemed at times to be the purgatory of the Chief Whip's office and send him back to the Ministry of Housing. Wilson's sudden resignation in 1976 upset that apple cart. Mellish wept at the news.

In the subsequent contest for the party leadership he threw in his lot with Michael Foot partly to repay the loyalty he helieved Foot had shown the government. in the difficult days since February 1974. Perhaps too he remembered James Callaghan's failure to show the same loyalty to the party leadership in the 1969 about local authorities which most too gentle. Some say it's a crisis over In Place of Strife.

Part of Mellish's strength was he didn't like), it was quite clear strength. He is very loyal to his his political "forgetory" - his ability not to maintain grudges -hut there was always a frisson between him and the new prime minister and it was not surprising that he left the government after a few months. Ever constructive, in 1981 he be-

> opment Corporatioo. I will never forget two days canvassing with his successor as Labour candidate in Bermondsey, Peter Tatchell, and finding the extent to which, particularly among older people, Bob Mellish was quite simply loved.

> came the Deputy Chairman of

the London Docklands Devel-

His frieods in the Labour Party would like to draw a veil over the reasons he joined the SDP. Having had lunch with him last year in the Members' Cafeteria to which he drifted down from the House of Lords (which

that he regretted having left the Labour Party. The SDP was not his mileu. His solace in later years, as throughout his life, was his wife Anne and his family.

Tam Daivell

Robert Joseph Mellish, trade union official and politician: born London 3 March 1913; MP (Labour) for Rotherhithe 1946-50, for Bermondsey 1950-82, (Independent) 1982; Chairman, London Regional Labour Party 1956-77; Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Housing 1964-67: PC 1967; Minister of Public Buildings and Works 1967-69; Parliamentary Secretary to Treasury and Government Chief Whip 1969-70 and 74-76; Opposition Chief Whip 1970-74; Debuty Chairman, London Docklands Development Corporation 1981-85: created 1985 Baron Mellish; married 1938 Anne Warner (five sons); died Sompting, West Sussex 9 May 1998.



Alice Faye

Alice Faye was one of the most popular musical stars in the golden era of Hollywood.

From the late 1930s to the aid-1940s she was a top boxoffice attraction in such films as Hexander's Ragtime Bond and That Night in Rio, and comxxsers Jule Styne and Irving 3erlin were among those who vraised her melodic distincively throaty crooning style. Amnng the songs she introtuced on screeo was the 1944 Dscar-winner "You'll Never 'now" which became permatently identified with her.

Though Faye's image on creen was ultimately one of rarm appeal (she frequently dayed the wronged heroine aithful to the thoughtless hero ill the happy fade-out), she tarted her career as a huxom lunde with a come-hither style.

When Rudy Vallee introuced her as his vocalist on a raio show in 1933, he told steners: "For those of you wonering what Miss Fave looks ke, I can best describe her as

eing like a young Mae West." Born Alice Jeanne Leppert New York City in 1915, she btained a juh with a dance oupe at the age of 14 (lying pout her age) and two years aer, having changed her surame to Faye, was in the cho-.931) on Broadway. At a cast arty its star Rudy Vallee heard tye sing and was so impressed hired her as vocalist on his dio show and ultimately beme romantically involved with

his wife in a stormy divorce case. Signed by Fox to star in the film George White's Scandals (f934), Vallee persuaded the studio to cast Faye and, when Lilian Harvey walked out, to give Faye the star role. Offered a loog-term contract by Fox, she

stayed in Hollywood when Vallee returned to New York. Though her early films were undistinguished-she confessed later that she learned to act in front of the camera - Fave's singing was always praised, and her recordings for Brunswick records sold well. In Every Night at Eight (1935), she introduced "Feel A Song Coming On" and in King of Burlesque (1936), "I'm Shooting High". This film (Faye's eighth) convinced the

that Fave deserved superior scripts and top-rate productions. After supporting Shirley Temple in Poor Little Rich Girl (1936), Faye was given her best film to date, Sing Baby Sing (1936), in which she introduced another standard, "You Turned The Tables on Me", and appeared for the first time with her

future husband Tony Martin. She introduced nne of her higgest hits, Mack Gordon and Harry Revel's "Goodnight, My Love" in Stowaway (1936). It was around this time that Jule is of George White's Scandals Styne became a vocal coach at the studio. "Alice knew how to really sell a song," he said later. "She'd sing a song un the screen and the next morning it

sold a million copies." Though she was third-billed r - she was to be named by to Madeleine Carroll and Dick Faye's two personal favourites. coloured piece of escapism in

Powell in On The Avenue (1937). she had several new Irving Berlin tunes to sing, including the lovely ballad, "This Year's Kisses", and impressed critics with her portrayal of a jealous actress. In Woke Up and Live (1937), Faye introduced two Gordon-Revel standards: "There's A Lull in My Life" and

"Never in a Million Years". Fave teamed for the first of six times with Don Ameche in You Con't Hove Everything (1937) and had one of her best roles as a would-he playwright. The title song (again by Gordon and Revel) was a hig hit.

Zanuck had long planned to make an epic film centred on the great Chicago fire, and hoped to borrow Jean Harlow from MGM to star in it. When studio chief Darryl F. Zanuck Harlow died, the director Henry King suggested Faye for the role, and Tyrone Power volunteered in test with her to prove to Zanuck that she was up to the part. With a hudget of nearly \$2m, In Old Chicago (1938) was a prestigious production that gained six Oscar nominations.

The three leads - Fave, Power and Don Ameche, were teamed again in an amhitious musical scanning three decades and built around the songs of Irving Berlin, Alexander's Ragtime Band (1938). Faye introduced a seductive Berlin ballad, "Now I Can Be Told" and sang such standards as the title song. "Blue Skies" and "Remember" (Berlin used to cite Fred Astaire and Faye as his favourite vocalists). The film became one of

ton Square (1939), a film so Brice sued the studio and won a large settlement.

lead in a popular musical Down Betty Grable. Immediately, stowere now rivals and enemies ("Just Fox publicity," said Faye later. "The truth was we liked each other very much, became good friends and stayed good

friends till the day she died.") They were teamed in Tin Pun .4lley (1940) as singing sisters. and performed a lavish number, "Sheik of Araby", which revealed their strikingly different personalities. Though virtually the same age. Faye purveyed an assured, experienced maturity while Grahle was more hrash and down-to-earth. She gradually supplanted Paye as the stu-

dio's top musical star. Some of Faye's greatest triumphs, though, were still ahead - That Night in Rio (1941), in which she was the confused wife of a philandering businessman (Don Ameche); The Great American Broadcast (194f), a lively depiction of the hirth of radin co-starring John Payne and Jack Oakie; and Weekend in Havono (1941), a lushly

man, television presenter and re-porter, 48; Miss Natasha Richardson,

actress, 35: Mr Mike Sleman, rugby

player, 48; Miss Judith Weir, com-

poser, 44; Mr Richard Wilkinson

Power was her co-star for a which Faye introduced Warren final time in Rose Of Washing- and Gordoo's "Tropical Magic". fn f941 Faye married the

closely based on the life of band leader Phil Harris, noted comedienne Fannie Brice that for his wild life-style, hut the marriage lasted over 50 years until his death, albeit with an un-Faye had begun fending with usual arrangement in later years Zanuck, who refused to allow that had Harris living part of the her to do radio work or to re- time in a separate house where new her recording contract, he could have all-night poker and hospitalisation cost her the sessions. After time off to have her first child (her pregnancy Argentine Way (1940), which costing her roles in Route Hart, made a star of her replacement, My Gal Sal and Springtime in the Rockies), Faye returned to the ries circulated that the two screen in Hello, 'Frisco, Hello (1943), the second of her personal favourites. It is packed with terrific numbers including the Warren-Gordon hit "You'll Never Know" and "By The Light of the Silvery Moon".

Fave had taken time off to have her second child, and on her return her voice had acquired a deeper, more warmly mellow tone. Her last major musical role was in The Gang's All Here (1943), the most revived of her films thanks to its direction by Busby Berkeley and some remarkable production sequences. The most dazzling is the final number, Paye's "Polka Dot Polka" which evolves into an halfucinatory kacido-

scope of images. After a guest spot as herself in Four Jills in o Jeep (1943), Faye was persuaded by Zanuck to play a straight role in the Otto Preminger thriller Follen Angel (1945). Though a good film it was a disappointment for Faye, who found a lot of her footage cut to huild up the role of Lin-



'Like a young Mae West': Faye with Don Ameche in Alexander's Rogtime Band (1938)

da Darnell, a oewer Zanuck favourite. Faye stated that: t was proud of my performance but Zanuck cut most of my best stuff including the song 'Slowly' by the composer of 'Laura', David Raksin...t felt Zanuck betrayed me. Feeling utterly at a loss I left the studio that had

been my home for the past decade. I didn't even go to my dressing room to collect my personal belongings. Faye did not stop working, however, joining her husband Phil Harris on a radio show that ran for eight years (1946-54)

with Faye delivering a song a week and displaying a nice flair for self-depracating humour.

It was 17 years before she returned to the screen, as the in a remake of the 1945

musical version of State Fair the city regularly. "When you're (1962). Richard Rodgers wrote a star in England," she said. 'Never Say No" for her, along with a duet "The Little Things in Texas" for her and Tom Ewell,

In 1974 she starred on Broadway in a revival of Good News with John Payne. Her 1978 film appearance in The Magic of Lassie with James Stewart was well received, but she had by then a busy career as spokeswoman for a pharmaceutical company.

Until a few months ago, Alice Faye maintained remarkably good health and appearance. In 1982 she was a guest on the television show Looks Familiar io London and afterwards came to

"you're always a star." In 1984 she was featured in a special hnur-long This Is Your Life, in 1985 in the Royal Variety Show (the Queen tald her she had been a favourite of her parents) and she was often a prime attraction in charity shows, always eliciting an ovation with her rendition of "Ynu'll Never Know".

Tom Vallance ...

Alice Jeanne Leppert (Alice Faye), actress: born New York 5 May 1915; married 1937 Tony Martin (marriage dissalved 1940), 1941 Phil Harris (died 1995; two daughters); died Roncho Mirage, California 9 May 1998.

BIRTHS. MARRIAGES & DEATHS

EATHS

RIGHT: Sarah Evelyn (Bundey) on May 1998. Much loved wife and May 1996, much first war and nother, died peacefully at home, uneral at \$1 Faith and \$1 Laurence hurch, Harborne 12 noon 15 May, amily Rowers only. Donations may a sent for Chinical Genetics Unit gham or St Faith's Church.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS ne 0171 - 293 2012 or fa:

Christening

Liberty India Rose Vaz Townsend The christening took place on 3 May at Leicester Cathedral of Liberty India Rose, the daughter of Valerie Vaz conducted by The Right Rev Dr Thomas Butler, the Bishop of Leicester. The godparents are Ms Marcel-la Phelan and Mr Keith Vaz MP.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Anson, 69:

Sir Edgar Beck, president, John Mowlem, 87: Lady Rachel Billington, writer, 56; Sir Rhodes Boyson, for-mer MP, 73; Mr Eric Burdon, rock musician, 57; Professor Michael Hamlin, former principal and Vice-Chancellor, Dundee University, 68; Sir Ernest Harrison, chairman, Racal Electronics, 72: Professor Antony Hewish, radio astronomer, 74; Sir Anthony Hollis, former High Court judge, 71; Brigadier Joan Moriarty, ner matron-in-chief, Army Nursing Services, 75; Mr Joho Parrott.

snooker player, 34; Mr Jeremy Pax-

ambassador in Venezuela, 52; The Hon Montague Woodhouse Lectures

Exeter University: Marina Warner,

The Enchantments of Circe: Odysseus's Refusal, Gryllus's Choise", 5.15pm.

CASE SUMMARIES: 11 MAY 1998

ments were prepared by the re- 1994, they remained so even if porters of the All England there was non-use of the floor Law Reports.

Sunday trading

Haskers Garden Centres Ltd v East Dorset District Council; QBD (Div Ct) (Schiemenn LJ Smedley)) 26 April 1998. Geoffrey Stephenson (Mescalfe Cope-If premises constituted a "large" man and Pettefur, Wisbech) for the

The following notes of judg- 1 to the Sunday Trading Act East Dorset District Council) for the area on the date of ao alleged

Drug trafficking offence of opening the shop on R v Timan; CA (Crim Div) (Rose Ly.

a Sunday for the serving of re-Butterfield. Richards II) 27 April 1998. tail customers contrary to In issuing a certificate of inparas 2(1) and 7(1) of Sch 1. creased value of realisable property and making a variation of a confiscation order unshop" for the purposes of Sch appellant; Martin Strutt (Solicitor, der's 16 of the Drug Trafficking

Act 1994, a judge was entitled to include assets which had accrued subsequent to the making of the original confiscation order, and which could not be proved to have been acquired through criminal activity or moral turpitude. Ivor Frank (Devonshires) for the ap-

pellant: Andrew Mitchell (Solicitor,

Why the mid caps have a spring in their step

THE WEEK AHEAD



DEREK PAIN

AS blue chips dilly and daily, one banking on non-Footsie and the small cap also hit a numours of mega financial bids the stock market's supporting shares, ranging from £2bn-plus groups to the tiddlers unable to muster a £1m capitalisation, are

enjoying a spring-time romp. There is a growing feeling in some quarters that Footsie may have already achieved its highest level of the year. But the rest of the market is stretching to new peaks and there is confident talk of yet more high

ground being taken. Richard Jeffrey, strategist at Charterbouse Tilney, says "in all probability" Footsie has peaked. He observes: "On both sides of the Atlantic clouds are looming. The odds on an increase in US interest rates are rising steadily and a further has been stuck around the old tightening remains probable

m the UK. "While not catching the markets entirely off-guard. such action will mark the end of the positive phase of the economic and stock market

| Mars |

ののでは、これのでは、こ

+150 21 +150 10 +150 17 +150 17 -250 17 -457 78 -450 13 +650 14

0.01 0.01 0.01 13 13 13 13 14

Accord Group
Advanted
Council Valida
Council V

Robert Fleming Securities is

vival is "well placed".

Mid caps, as represented by the FTSE 250 index, for long limped behind Footsie, only starting to challenge the gap which opened up towards the end of last year.

This year they have enjoyed remarkable strength, often outperforming their peers.

Fleming say earlier mid cap rallies were "undermined by negative earnings performance, and they failed. "However the last year has seen a different story, earnings

are rising strongly relative to "So the gap that has opened up is a more positive one for the sector. This means the PTSE

Footsie and is showing superior earnings growth."

250 is now on a p/e discount to

shares continuing to outper- record high, 2,704.6. Footsie, failing to become reality the form. It believes the mid cap re- however, ended at 5,969.8 sector has since faltered. against its 6,105.8 high, hit in

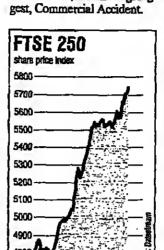
> Why have the second- and third-liners staged such a dramatic comeback? There are many and varied explanations.

The valuation gap opened up between Footsie and the rest has became increasingly difficult to justify and investors, particularly institutions, started shopping on the market's un-

dercard. Indeed the value which lurked outside the top 100 shares was illustrated by the fancy takeover prices paid for Footsie but the price relative a range of companies with overseas and even domestic groups prepared to ladle out

There is also the simple fact that Footsie's progress owed much to the financial sector as institutions built their weightings to accommodate The mid cap index closed at the arrival of the former builda 5,741.1 points peak on Friday ing societies. However with

Still one financial merger which did materialise was on the insurance pitch, with Commercial Union getting together with General Accident to create CGU and not, as some wags sug-



initially opt for initials have been known to suddenly produce a daft name. Witness Grand Metropolitan and Guinness. Originally it settled for GMG Brands only to spring Diageo on an unsuspecting mar-

The CGU constituents are among the blue chips on this week's profits schedule. They will not have a particularly happy profits tale to relate when they report their first quarter profits.

CU is expected to post an operating profit around £60m. down from £102m in the same period last year. GenAcc should produce £45m against £114m. So combined profits will be more than halved.

The two will have suffered beavy hits from storms in the US and Canada and fierce competition in key markets.

The £15bn merger, although cleared by the Eurocrats of Brussels, is not due to be completed for some weeks.

ready taking in some of the the 290-shop chain quit after trappings of the merger by holding joint analysts and press

Body Shop International should indicate profits progress after three indifferent years. The market expects around £38m which would compare with £31.7m.

If such hopes are realised it will represent welcome relief for the hard-pressed environmentally aware cosmetics der their US commercial group. In March its dismal share performance resulted in it being relegated from the mid cap index. Six years ago the shares were riding at an exotic 370p. By March they had fallen to 111p. On Friday they were trudging along at 119.5p, capitalising the group at

£230m. Like so many other British groups, Body Shop has suffered in America. A disastrous foray bas cost it dear, not only in balance sheet terms but in

29-8288 (during business bours).

Interest Rates

3.30%

resunt as a percentage of the chare price. The price/carnings (PIE) ratio is the shareprice making by lact year's comings per share, excluding occasordinary leans but including occapitor

The Independent Teleshare - Tel. 0891 - 201 200 To access Real-Time Share Prices, 24 hours II day, call 0891 - 201 200

You will hear the current FTSE 100 Index followed by a Stock Market Summary Report

To get a Membership Number to set-up your Portfolio facility, please call the Help Desk on 017

Discount Fed Funds

source: Bloomberg

Still, merged groups which However, the two groups are al- year the man called in to revive just 17 months in the job.

Founders Anita and Gordon Roddick have now, it seems, grasped the US nettle. They are looking for a partner to help run the operation but many suspect they may find their best course will be to retire, as gracefully as possible, from the US market. After all the Brits have had plenty of practice at being forced to surren-

Safeway, another struggling retailer, will produce lower profits; around £375m against £430m is the guess.

ambitions.

Others due to report this week include the insurance broker Sedgwick which should manage slightly lower three month profits of £40m. However the group bas to contend with a £35m hit from clearing up pension misselling.

BOC, the chemical group. should offer half year profits of market sentiment. Earlier this around £87m, a 23 per cent fall.



A And Federal A Bellevier A Bel | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 | 1980 |



Utilities fight 'second windfall tax'

GOVERNMENT plans to give utility regulators greater powers to claw back profits from the privatised electricity, gas, water and telecoms companies are running into fierce opposition.

The electricity industry is to urge ministers to abandon the proposals, warningthat they are unnecessary and will increase firms' cost of capital.

Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, outlined plans to clamp down on excess profits through a so-called "error correction mechanism" in her Green Paper on utility regulation in March. The mechanism, viewed as a wind-

fall tax by another name in some quarters, raise borrowing costs for all utilities. The would be additional to the existing RP1 minus X price control formula which limits price increases to "X" per cent below the rate of inflation.

Mrs Beckett said the mechanism would be used only on very rare occasions where companies benefited from circumstances outside their control, such as a big drop in fuel costs, or where they deliberately misled the regulator.

However, in its response to the Green Paper, the Electricity Association, the body representing all the electricity distributors and generators, will warn that the proposals would increase uncertainty and

proposal for an error correction mechanism was criticised at the time by the shadow President of the Board of Trade, John Redwood, who said it would leave the Goverment free to dip into the funds of the privatised utilities.

The idea was also questioned by one of the regulators themselves, the electricity watchdog Professor Stepben Littlechild. He said that the present system worked well and it was important that any other forms of control did not either blunt incentives to make profits or create uncertainty among consumers over future price levels.

Electricity companies are not sure what circumstances would trigger use of the mechanism since the regulated parts of the industry - transmision and distribution - are unaffected by factors such as a drop in fuel costs.

John Roberts, president of the Electricity Association and chief executive of Swalec, said: "It is not clear what the mechanism does that the existing price control formula doesn't already do. We will be asking them to withdraw it because if it is there then the regulators will also be tempted to reach for it.

The electricity industy's response to the Green Paper will also set out its plans

for a £100m levy on consumers to cover the cost of servicing poorer customers such as those on pre-payment meters. The levy would work out at £3-£4 a bead and would help ensure that when the electricity market is opened to competition from this September, suppliers are not tempted to cherry-pick or discriminate against pre-payment customers who generally use less electricity and are therefore less profitable. Protecting the interests of poorer and socially disadvantaged customers is one of the central

themes of the Green Paper. Mr Roberts said the industry supported the idea of giving regulators a new pri-

mary duty to protect the consumer. But i said the utilities themselves should not be turned into a branch of the social services. It would, for example, oppose moves to companies to be required to keep a register of vulnerable customers or those in particular social or age groups such as pea-

The electricity industry has also recommended that the Government introduce "small claims court" to deal with disputes between firms and the regulator. At present, if a company objects to a ruling, its only course of action is to opt for a full referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

£3.60 pay minimum disappoints unions

By Barrie Clement and Diane Coyle

A RECOMMENDATION to the Government later this month by the Low Pay Commission that the national minimum wage be set at £3.60 an hour will attract denunciation and grudging acceptance in equal measure from both employers and unions.

One union leader, Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison, Britain's higgest union, said yesterday that the figure was disappointing.

Unison is seeking a rate of £4.61 under a formula that would tie the minimum to male average earnings, "Coming to the end of the 20th century I don't helieve that £4.61 an hour is a lot to ask for," Mr Bickerstaffe said.

The commission, which has been deliberating for nearly a year, is also likely to exclude younger workers from the national minimum or recommend a lower level.

New ammunition for the exemption of young workers will be provided by a report due to Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Develop-

A comprehensive study by inevitably predict a wave of job

the Paris-based think-tank of arrangements in a wide range of countries shows that a minimum wage for young people systematically reduces the level of employment in that age group. The number of job losses depends on the level of the youth minimum.

It will report that it is not enough to maintain just a small differential between the adult and youth rates, or to apply the youth rate just to those under the age of 18. A youth rate needs to be much lower and to apply up to the early or mid-20s if it is not to cost jobs.

The organisation is also concerned about how the Low Pay Commission will uprate the minimum wage to keep up with inflation. Ministers will allow a peri-

od of consultation on the commission's recommendations with a view to legislation in the next parliamentary session and implementation in 1999. It is expected that small and mediumsized husinesses - large companies overwhelmingly pay higher rates - will hegin adjusting wages long hefore the

The Conservative Opposition and some employers' will losses as a consequence of the £3.60 floor to wages. Its impact on the economy however will also depend on the degree to which higher-paid employees seek to preserve their wage dif-

The commission's rate of £3.60 seems to split the difference between the TUC, which has called for a figure of more than £4 and a submission from the CBI which indicated that it should be nearer £3.20. While refusing to recommend a specific figure, the employers' organisation calculated that if old wage council rates, which once covered low-paid industries, were updated in line with inflation it would produce a wage of roughly £3,20, which the CBI argued would have little impact on employment.

Union leaders are expected to express their reservations in a meeting with the Prime Minister this week which is scheduled to discuss proposals on a law to enforce union recognition where employees vote for it.

Union officials calculated yesterday that £3.60 an hour which translates into £137 for a 38-hour week and more than £7,000 a year -- would mean a pay increase for 1.5 million



What he's made of: Richard Branson gives a performance in Virgin Trains' new uniform

Branson may float airline

By Andrew Yates

RICHARD Branson plans to Doat parts of his Virgin empire on the stock market to raise cash to fund his myriad business interests. The ebullient entrepreneur is looking to push ahead with the listing of Virgin's railway operations by the end of the year. Mr Branson could also look to float Virgin Travel, which owns Virgin Atlantic, his flagship airline, and

could be valued at up to £1bn. After years of eschewing the stock market, Richard Branson is poised to renew his love-hate affair with the City. He floated the whole Virgin Group in 1986, only to take it private two years later at a huge personal cost when he became disaffected with the demands and pressures that come with

performing as a public com-

Since Virgin Atlantic was formed in 1984 it has grown to become the jewel in Mr Branson's crown. It forms the main component of Virgin Travel, which made pre-tax profits of £67.5m on turnover of around £800m last year. If Mr Branson does decide

to float Virgin Travel, potential investors could be wooed by cutprice flights and holidays. The group also includes Virgin Holidays, which sells a quarter of a million package tours a year to long haul destinations in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. It has also just started Virgin Sun, a cut price short-haul

service to the Mediterranean. A spokesman for Virgin admitted that fintation was one possibility for the travel busi-

ness. But he added: "This is very much Richard's baby and the single biggest element of his business. It is pure speculation that Virgin Atlantic will be

Virgin has already come under severe criticism for the performance of its rail business, which has taken over the running of the West Coast Main Line and Cross Country franchises. The business requires substantial investment to overhaul the service and in-

troduce new tilting trains. City observers believe that Virgin needs extra cash to fund the expansion of the business empire, especially its rail onerations, although Mr Branson has denied in the past that he would have to float Virgin Atlantic to finance this growing

Bank accused

Too little, too late, says Item Club

of errors on interest rates

Economics Editor

THE STEAM has not gone out of the consumer boom, according to a forecast of the economy published today. The Bank of England bas done too little, too late, to slow consumer spending, and the penalty will be paid by manufacturing industry as a result of the strong pound, it says.

This thumbs-down for the Bank's interest rate policy comes from the Item Club, which uses the Treasury's computer model of the economy. Peter Spencer, economics adviser, said the 1.25 per cent rise in the level of interest rates since last May had had virtually no effect on consumers hecause long-term interest rates and mortgage costs had fallen.

"You and I can borrow money more cheaply than Gordon Brown," he said, noting that fixed rate mortgages were currently available at interest rates of below 6 per cent. Three out of every five new mortgages are taken out at fixed rates.

In a special study of the housing market he predicts a hig rise in the number of home sales, and a rise of 8 per cent in house prices this year. The report argues that the need for a further rise in interest rates could not be ruled out.

The Item report says the Bank's failure to raise rates earlier, and the Chancellor's failure to hit consumers with higher taxes, has resulted in the pound being so strong. While that has not dented exports yet, it will push manufacturing into recession, as official figures due today are likely to confirm. Coping with the high ex-

change rate will result in the

manufacturing, the report predicts. That will eventually translate into rising unemployment, up to 1.5 million next year from 1.3 million now, and a slowdown in consumer spending. The burden is unlikely to be

loss of 5 per cent of all jobs in

shared evenly between industries. The forecast notes that high value sectors such as pharmaceuticals and software have proved remarkably resilient since the pound started its climb, meaning low-value industries will bear the brunt of the adjustment.

This uneven picture will be . corroborated by research due to be published io the Bank of England's Quarterly Bulletin on Wednesday. It shows that a handful of industries, including pharmaceuticals, aerospace, computing and electronics, account for the vast bulk of productivity improvements in manufacturing since

Their total productivity grew at rates of 3 per cent to : 6 per cent from 1970 to 1992, compared with an average of 1.4 per cent for manufacturing as a whole. Just seven industries accounted for 95 per cent of the increase in the productivity of British manufacturing during this period.

The Item forecast, sponsored by the accountants Ernst & Young, predicts the balance of payments will be £11bn in the red next year. Mr Spencer said: "We now have a rudderless economy."

Gordon Brown, speaking yesterday on the BBC's Breakfast with Frost programme, said: "The economy will have to slow down a little to enable us to get to a path of sustainable growth, and that is what I am trying to do."

Ministers defied as directors' incomes soar further ahead

By Barrie Clement Labour Editor

THE MASSIVE gap between boardroom pay and the wages of employees has continued to grow, despite constant ministerial calls for restraint.

Directors are now enjoying average increases of 10.2 per cent compared with the 4 per cent growth in earnings elsewhere, barely ahead of the inflation rate. The latest survey of earnings

by the Institute of Management, which shows that even after inflation directors were 6.9 per cent better off, could resurrect government plans to enforce boardroom moderation. The 10.2 per cent rise en-

joyed by directors in the year to January compares with 7.9 per cent in the previous year. Researchers found that the typical director now earns £93,787 a year, with 27 per cent receiving more than £100,000 and 3 per cent £250,000 plus.

The highest pay is enjoyed by directors involved in insurance and pensions who are on

£102,154, a rise of 13.2 per cent. They were closely followed by boardroom finance specialists on an average £101,780 and general management administration directors on £101,575. The 1998 National Man-

agement Salary Survey, publisbed by the Institute and Remuneration Economics, shows that the significance of bonus payments has increased. Additional lump sums now account for 17 per cent of executive pay generally, up from 15.7 per cent in 1997 and 12.8 per cent in 1995.

Roger Young, director of the Institute, said the "bonus cuiture" bad steadily grown in British companies. "Pay is now linked to profits and performance," he said. "While Gordon Brown is right to warn about wage-related inflation, management pay increases are an indication of the success of Britain's companies and the competitiveness of UK plc."

Union leaders, however, are constantly reminding ministers that while directors and managers see their remuneration increase in line with profitability

and share performance, little of that trickles down to the shop floor. Pressure on the Government to revisit the issue of "fat cat" pay awards is in-

The report, based on a study of nearly 26,000 individuals in 584 organisations, shows that executive pay generally is up by 7.2 per cent compared with the previous year's 6.4 per cent and managers' earnings bave risen by 6.9 per cent, up from 6.2 per cent. The survey shows that redundancies at 1.3 per cent were at their lowest level for 10 years, while 24.5 per cent of companies were experiencing recruitment problems, the

highest level since 1990. It was found that the average manager is 42 years old, earns £36.196 and has been at the organisation for an unexpectedly long period of 15 years. The average director is 48, earns £93,787 and has been with the organisation for a

similar period. Some 65 per cent of managers earn more than £30,000 a year and 29 per cent over

<u>INTEREST RATES</u>

PDFM could be sold off by SBC by Andrew Yates

PDFM, the fund manager, could be sold off in the wake of the \$33bn (£20bn) merger between Swiss Bank Corporation and the Union Bank of Switzerland.

Speculation is mounting that the combined group is likety to ditch PDFM, which is currently part of UBS, in favour of Brinson, SBC's fund management arm.

PDFM has been criticised

for its performance in recent Sachs, of the US and the no decision has been taken years. Tony Dye, its chief investment officer, missed out on the surge in shares by moving a large chunk of PDFM's funds into casb and gilts after claming the stock market looked

of the largest fund managers the board of SBC bad no auin the City and is likely to attract plenty of interest from potential suitors such as Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the German bank, Goldman under review," she said. "But

Dutch bank ING. Reports suggest that SBC

bas already approached potential buyers for PDFM. However the merger will not be officially completed until July. and a spokeswoman for UBS However PDFM is still one said yesterday that until then thority to orchestrate a sale.

"As part of any merger all holdings will be looked at and the whole organisation will be on the future of PDFM."

Analysts believe that the marriage of PDFM, which has £60ba of funds under management and Chicago-based Brinson was always likely to run into complications.

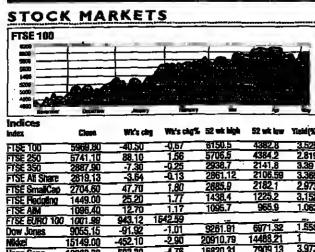
It is not only distance that could stand in the way of an effective partnership of the two businesses. City observers point out that Brinson's different investment style and much better performance fig- giant.

TOURIST RATES

English rival. Listings compiled by the Combined Actuarial Performance Services showed that PDFM's key Managed Exempt Fund ranked a lowly 64th of 70 UK funds of its kind last year.

The sector is already consolidating rapidly. Last year Mercury Asset Management, the UK's largest fund manager was snapped up by Merrill Lynch, the American financial

A week in the markets



PRICE CHANGES

_						-		
CUR	REN	CIES	·	. M				
E/\$ 1.77 1.70 1.80 1.86 1.84 1.82 1.90 1.86 1.86 1.86 1.86				\$/DM 310 300 260 260 250 250 250	A			
Pound	-		ت	Dollar		•		A 1
	friday	Wit's the	Yr Ago		Frida		Mic's also	Yr.
Dollar	1.6385	<u>-3,15c</u>	1,6191	Steeling	0.6	103	+1.15p	0.61
D-Mark	2.9009	-6.89pf	2.7721	D-Mark	1.7	711	-0.81pt	1.70
Yen	218.06	-¥4.09	200.18	Yen	132	.85	-Y0.60	120.
£ Index	103,00	-2.30	98.80	\$ Index	109	1.30	-0.20	104.
OTH	ERI	NDI	CAT	ORS) •===================================			
	0	er Witche	Yr Ago		lades.	Che	Yr ago	ilen;
Brent Oil (\$	14.00	-0.57	18.65	GDP	114.60	2.60		
Gold (\$)	299.8		343.75	RPI	160.80			
Silver (S)	6.0		4.75	Base Ra		3.50		
		•LI 15=	4/5	SEESE HO	IBS / .25		6.25	

Australia (S)	2.4841
Austria (schillings)	19.79
Belglum (francs)	58.20
Canada (\$)	2.2980
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8256
Denmark (krone)	10.82
Finland (marides)	8,6340
France (francs)	9,4546
Germany (marks)	2.8311
Greece (drachma)	489.29
Hong Kong (S)	12.34
ireland (punts)	1.1181
indian (Tupees)	60.01
Srael (shekels)	5,8160
Italy (Ikra)	2791
Japan (yen)	219.07

.=	
Malta (lira)	0.6202
Mexican (nuevo peso)	12.69
Netherlands (quilders)	3,1746
New Zealand (\$)	2.9072
Norway (krone)	11.86
Portugal (escudos)	286.08
Saudi Arabia (riats)	5.9822
Singapore (\$)	2.5253
Spain (pesetae)	238.99
South Africa (rands)	7.9799
Sweden (krone)	12,22
Switzerland (francs)	2.3583
Thaliand (bahts)	57.56
Turkey (Irasi)	394154
USA (\$)	1,6038

Labour accused of hidin truth or

tax rise

DAVIES

AND HOW

ON A FINANCIAL

SYSTEM IN CRISIS

CLOSE IT CAME

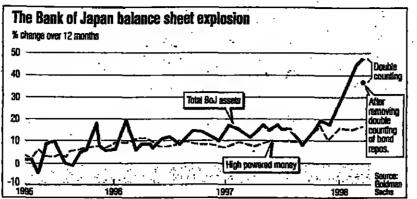
TO MELTDOWN



THE STATE of the Japanese economy inevitably dominated the G7 economic summit held in London this weekend. Inevitably, because the world's second largest economy - it accounts for almost two-thirds of Asian GDP - now clearly stands at a crossroads. For the first time ever, the Bank of Japan appears to be on the point of attacking the problem of deflation via the wholesale printing of money.

The latest Japanese crisis started in the spring of 1997 with the extraordinary decision to tighten fiscal policy by 2 per cent of GDP despite repeated warnings from the rest of the G8 that this could cause a slump. Althnugh this fiscal tightening has now been belatedly reversed, the damage in confidence has not been repaired. The savings ratio is on a strongly rising trend, excess inventories are rocketing, the housing sector is in free-fall, and even exports are showing signs of flagging. The economy is now entirely dependent on the boost it is getting from the fiscal injection and the weakening in the yen against the dollar. Without these factors, which together will add about 2.5 per cent 10 output this year, GDP would have shrunk by almost 2 per cent in fiscal 1998.

As it is, the meagre growth rate of under 1 per cent this year may well be insufficient to head off the danger of outright deflation, which will mean that the Bank of Japan could soon be grappling with the problem of rising real interest rates, even though nominal interest rates are close to zero (and bond yields are at an all-time low, for any developed economy, of 1.3 per cent). That rarest and most difficult of all macro-economic phenomena - severe debt deflation, combined with a liquidity trap in the money markets which



prevents interest rates from falling - is looming on the very near horizon.

What should be done about it? The classic policy prescription for such a situation is a direct fiscal stimulus via extra public spending, since it is difficult to stimulate private expenditure either through tax reductions or through easier monetary policy. In the context of the present Asian crisis, it is also seen by the Americans as very important for Japan to boost its growth rate by generating extra domestic demand, rather than by allowing its exchange rate to slip further. A renewed yen decline could easily tip the Chinese into a competitive devaluation strategy, which would trigger another bout of contagion throughout the, emerging world. It would also worsen the burgeoning trade imbalance between Japan and the US. So further Japanese fiscal stimulus appears to make the most sense.

To some extent, this is exactly what the most recent Japanese economic package involves, which is why the US has become less strident in its criticism of the Hashimoto administration in recent

weeks. However, the latest package has once again focused for political reasons on the inefficient and wasteful construction industry, which has so often in the past failed to trigger a multiplier response in the rest of the economy. Hence, international pressure is now on the Japanese authurities to introduce permanent income tax cuts, especially at the top end of the mcome scale, immediately after the Upper House elections in July. Mr Hashimoto has hinted that he is ready to do this, but the financing of these measures would disproportionately hit lower-paid workers. It will certainly he difficult for democratic politicians to introduce such regressive tax measures on the required scale, and the same applies to cuts in corporation tax.

This is where the Bank of Japan comes into the picture. Following recent scandals among public servants, a new hoard has been appointed at the central bank, and it appears to be more independent, and more willing to contemplate drastic action, than its immediate predecessors. Unlike the Ministry of Finance,

it seems ready to live with a weaker yen if this should he necessary to head off the threat of deflation, Easier monetary policy will become inevitable if the economy and equity market fail to respond rapidly to the recent fiscal package.

Perhaps this might involve nothing more than a final cut in the Official Discount Rate from 0.5 per cent to 0.25 per cent or even zero. It is not clear that this would have much effect on the economy or on the yen. However, much more drastic action - the wholesale printing of money - is clearly being contemplated. So far, this has not quite been done, despite a 46 per cent increase in the liabilities on the Bank of Japan's balance sheet in the last 12 months. Of this, about 9 per cent has been due to a distortion relating to the bond repurchase agreements which the central bank has been using to inject liquidity into the money markets this year. Of the remaining 37 per cent, the vast majority reflects the central bank's emergency actions to deal with the credit crunch in the Tokyo money markets and thus head off an outright collapse in the financial system in the last few months.

Essentially, this is what has happened. Normally, private sector banks provide liquidity to each other in the money markets, with liquid institutions providing money to illiquid institutions for the price of a credit spread. With confidence in the financial system evaporating since last autumn, healthy banks have no longer been willing to fund ailing banks, almost at any price. This has put upward pressure on Tokyo interest rates as weak banks have desperately fought for credit lines. Without a huge injection of central bank liquidity - achieved through unprecedented purchases of long dated bonds from the private banks in exchange for cash or very short term bills - the banking system would probably have collapsui.

So far, this operation has simply prevented an increase in moncy market rates and has offset the shrinkage m the private interbank market. The central bank has become the counterparty to funding operations which normally would have been handled in the private sector. But it is too simplistic for the Bank of Japan to pretend, as it has been doing, that this operation is merely technical. In fact, it has provided the private sector banks with very short term dated hills worth about 4 per cent of GDP in exchange for much less liquid government bonds. This is very close to outright monetisation, and it has obviously pushed the yen lower, thus undermining the efforts of the Ministry of Finance to support the currency through foreim exchange intervention.

The next, and even more drastic, step would be for the central bank to inject cash into the banking system, instead of short dated bills. Some people on the board of the central bank have been arguing in public that this to be done. If it were done, the monetary base would explode as interest rates dropped to zero, and the yen would collapse. Great pressure would then be put on China and other emerging currencies to engage in a policy of competitive devaluation, and the Asian crisis would face a severe second leg.

No wonder the Americans are so anxious to persuade the Japanese authorities that the fiscal alternative - large and permanent cuts in marginal tax rates should be adopted instead. But recent history suggests they may be disappointed.

M&S the leader in thriving department store sector

MARKS & Spencer is the UK's top department store, with a market share more than twice that of its nearest rival, according to a report by Corporate Intelligence on Retailing. M&S has 29 per cent of Britain's £10.4bn department store market, followed by John Lewis with 14.4 per cent, Debenhams with 12.8 per cent and House of Fraser with 7.8 per cent. The report says that after years of being written off as an endangered species, department stores have re-established themselves after investing heavily in refurbishments.

Record fine for rogue trader

A RECORD fine on Sumitomo for illegal copper trades is expected to be announced today by the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission. The sum is reported to be \$150m, consisting of \$25m for customers and \$125m in penalties. Sumitomo announced in Tokyo on Friday that it had set aside nearly ¥20bn (\$149m) to pay claims on lawsuits triggered by the activities of the trader Yasuo Hamanaka.

'1,000 small banks to close'

URBAN as well as rural communities are being devastated by the closure of local bank branches, according to the Campaign for Community Banking Services. Banks are closing smaller hranches and concentrating customers in fewer and higger hranches, but as high street branches close customers go elsewhere, not only for their banking needs but other purchases as well. Small shops and elderly and disabled customers are hardest hit especially in communities where public transport is poor or non-exissent. According to the CCBS, 3,400 bank branches in the UK have closed since 1990 and a further 1,000 communities will be bankless by shortly after the start of the new millenium.

Firms pressed on older staff

OWLS alone can solve the looming shortage of skilled labour when the number of young people entering the labour force starts to fall away, according to the Employers' Forum on Age. Owl is the acronym for Older Workers in the Labourforce, a private sector initiative backed by 30 leading firms and organisations, to encourage employers to make better use of older workers. Nearly two-thirds of UK employers are reporting skills shortages and the problem will become more acute as the pool of 25-34 yearold workers who employers prefer gets progressively smaller. Yet the proportion of older workers unable to get back into work after early retirement or redundancy is rising. - Clifford German

Town tops profit league

The UK Index-Tracking PEP

The All-Share Tracking PEP

performed the best.

0500 11 66 22

that's charged the least, has

BANBURY, the North Oxfordshire market town, has the highest proportion of profit-making businesses in Britain, according to a survey by Dun & Bradstreet. It has deposed Learnington Spa, which slipped to eighth place. Grimsby, described as the "food processing centre of Europe" stormed up the list to claim fifth spot. Lincolnshire has emerged once again as the county with the highest proportion of profitable businesses.

Thomson at 170p

By Andrew Yates

SHARES in Thomson Travel Group, the UK's largest tour operator, will be valued at 170p, the top end of its flotation price range, after overwhelming demand from private investors

More than 500,000 people applied for shares in the group which will entitle them to 10 per cent discounts off all Thomson holidays. There has also been strong demand for shares from financial institutions which-

should ensure that the stock gets off to a good start when conditional dealings start today.

Thomson will come to the market with a valuation of £1.7bn and analysts say the shares should rise sharply. However thousands of potential investors stand to miss out. Thomson is still facing complaints from those denied shares because of administrative errors, though the group has offered to extend discounts to those who registered early.

New sparkle for cider

HP Bulmer, the UK's largest cider maker, is to launch a multi-million-pound advertising campaign to revamp the image of Strongbow, its leading brand, Andrew Yates writes.

Michael Hughes, who recently joined Bulmer from Guinness as chief executive, said: "We are aiming to give Strongbow and cider more street cred. We are relaunching the product's image to appeal to 18-25 year olds."

The archer and his arrows,

symbols of the Strongbow hrand for years, have not been scrapped but will not be the main feature of the advertising.

Bulmer will spend £6m promoting Strongbow over the next 12 months, a 40 per cent rise on the previous year. It will form the centrepiece of a £9m campaign to reverse the decline in the British cider market, badly hit by imports of cheap beer over the vital Christmas period. The advertisements will be shown in the second half of May.

informative:

Credit Interest	Gross	Gross CAR	Net	Net GA
	% p.e.	% p.a.	% p.s.	% p.a.
£1 to £999	4.00	4.07	3.20 ·	3.24
£1,000 to £2,499	4.75	4.85	3.80	3.86
\$2,500 and over	5.00	5.11	4.00	4.07
Direc	t Interest	Savings Ac	count	
Credit Interest	Gross .	Gross CAR	Net	Net CA
	% p.s.	% p.a.	% p.a.	% p.e.
27 to 22,499	0.50	0.50	0.48	0.40
52,500 to £4,999	4.50	4.57	3.60	. 3.64
25,000 to £49,999	6.75	6.92	5.40	5.51
£50,000 and over	7.00	7.18	5.60	5.71
		· .	bloss ton	
Green: the rate before on savings.	·.	II Or GEX SEPPOCE	OME IO I AME	estr
Not: the rate after the Higher rate tax payors	deduction of	tax on interest, Idditional liabilit	Customerally 2	D%.

First Direct is a division of Michard Sank pic Member FISBC (X) Group

Jurys expand Stationery Office prepares to float into the UK

By Andrew Yates

THE STATIONERY Office, formerly known as Her Majesty's Stationery Office, is planning a flotation on the claimed its sale had cost taxpayers £75m. stock market after a radical restructuring saw the group return to the black last year.

Electra Fleming, the venture capitalists, and the group's management team, lead by Rupert Pennant-Rea, former deputy governor of the Bank of England, are likely to be in line for a large windfall when it comes to the market.

controversy surrounding the re-organisation by the Consale of The Stationery Office. Its privatisation in 1996 was ended in disaster. heavily criticised by the Na-The new owners have spent tional Audit Office which more than £60m shaking up the

The Stationery Office will today announce it mad operating profits of £13.1m last year, compared to combined losses of £50.1m in 1995 and the first nine months of 1996. When Electra Fleming took over the business in August 1996 it was on the brink of collapse and had suspended pay-The move will add to the ments to its suppliers after a

servative government almost

business, cutting 1,000 workers and slimming down its 14 business units to only two main di-The Stationery Office pub-

lishes the Highway Code and Hansard. It recently purchased Whitaker's Almanack and is on the lookout for further acquisitions to streogthen its portfolio. The group is also planning an overhaul of the old HMSO retail outlets, opening improve.

new shops offering on-line access to documents.

The Stationery Office will not be able float this year as it has to establish a two-year profit record in order to come to the market. However it is likely to seek a listing in

The government had hoped to sell the husiness for £100m but in the end it fetched just £54m. Electra Fleming, which owns 56 per cent of the group. and the directors, who own 20 per cent, could be sitting on a goldmine if profits continue to



Likely to receive windfall

FIRST Irish pubs were all the rage, now it is the turn of Irish botels, Andrew Yates writes. Jurys, the Irish hotelier, plans to open a chain of its three-star Jurys Inns over the next few years. Jurys opened its first in London at Islington last month.

It offers rooms for £75 a night, undercutting many established UK chains in the capital. The group plans to open an Inn in Edinburgh this July and one in Manchester next Spring. More are likely to be opened in er sites in London.

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

LIQUIDATIONS RECEIVERSHIP: **AUCTIONS:**

Business for Sale

200+ Liquidations and Receiverships listed every week, what they did and who to contact and commercial auctions

BUSINESSES FOR SALE Monthly list of over 100different busness and

CONTACT Tel: 01652 680889 Fax 01652 680867

ALL ENGLAND® Postmens For Sale as going concer T/O 5400K 96/7, \$160K GM. T/O SAURE '99', 'S HOUR GNE.

T/O SAURE '99', 'S HOUR GNE.

Base: All stock, machinery and finishe
goods and hazard names.

Premises available.

Stock ready for summer season.

01353 666342



Whether you want to hire out the whole space for a major Awards ceremony with live TV links, hold a dinner-dance with an indoor fun fair, launch a Grand Prix racing car, or organise a small select conference, a team-building exercise or a corporate funday. Alexandra Palace offers a wide range of opportunities.



Fer bookings cantzet: Sales Department Telephone: 0181/365/2121 Max capacity: 5000 Auditoria: 2 main exhibition halfs' Banqueting Suites: 2 Meeting rooms: 5 Exhibition : space. 9300 sq ft (column-free) A

Conferences

BUSINESS SALE REPORT The No. 1 independent listing of medican to large companies for spic in the UK (I/O Elm+). Now includes European companies for pale + at UK excelestage. For sub details: 0181-875 0200

NOTICE TO READERS

preceptions with all advertisements, readers are strongly advised to take professional advise. paying a deposit or entering into any financial commitmen

Franchises

"AN HONOURABLE BUSINESS YOU CAN BELIEVE IN" Unique and flawless wrought iron furniture busine Exclusive franchise areas available from \$2,000

Affordable products that are a joy and you would be proud to self. Full training and national advertis ensure success.

High profits without limiting sales by overpricing. Huge marketing potential with a range of limited

ENGLISH COUNTRY FORGES Call Colin on 01752 783645 or 07771 625537 or David on 07771 625538 WE WANT YOU TO SUCCEED

A SERIOUS

Long Term, High Income, Franchise Opportunity 4 year test market now completed. Patented product (No Competition) Stock, retail value £6000. (No Composition) Subcit, read value 2000.

Full training and leurich programme, Exclusive area (guaranteed). Full marketing support, mailings etc.

Low investment from £9995 + vat.

For tree information pack, Call DSI Ltd.

Tel: 01132 873826

please call the

Business to

Business

Team

0171 293

Express STICKY PRINTS BRILLIANT SELF ADHESIVE COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS ON AN EASY TO PEEL BACKING SHEET. Produced from negatives, photographs or slides. Express sticky prints are available in a ranga of 6 convenient sizes

LENCIA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, EAST PARADE, ILKEY WEST YORKSHIRE E-mail sales@pinsharp.co.uk Tel: 01943 602128 FAX 01943 604343

To advertise in this section

Opportunities

ASPIRING MULLIONAIRES

Call 0181 236 4817 and just listen. (Not MLM or franchising)

PIRECT SALES: REGIONAL ma ages wanted for leunch of innov-stive approach to a provise con-cept. Top: earnings+benefits. Phone Edwards: (01202480245

Legal Notices IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

COMPANIES COURT No. 02376 of 1998 IN THE MATTER OF COMPANY OF GREAT BRITAIN LIMITED

and IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN had a petition was on 23 April presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital redemption reserve of the above-named Company from 5000 000 to 2000.

And notice a further given that the said petrtion is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Register at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WCA 21.1 on 21 May 1998.

Any crecitor or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an order for the confirmation of the said reduction of the capital redemption reserve should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

har perpose.

A copy of the said petition will be larrasted to any such person requiring the same by the undermental sed Schritors on payment of the regulated charge for the same. Datesh 11 May 1976 Messes Freehields
65 Fleet Street
Lendon ECAY 1H5
(Ref: LAMPCET)
Seficitors for the above-named
Company

8am – 8pm WEEKDAYS 9am – 5pm WEEKENDS PLEASE QUOTE REF: C4D)29 PLEASE QUOTE REF: C4D)29

"Some Witcopel/1600s, on me offer to had basis haved on all PSP changes with game income six form \$1.21 99 (since [match to 0.01 to 0.01 to may find provident who have been created an imangement of the provident have for extensive basis. Describe these provident have for extensive basis posterior form to 0.01 90 to credit on 100 describe the provident design find performance of the cathering by PSPs or a reduced first if ISP had capation of contrapt to the provident may not describe the provident and income values may not describe the set of the provident and income values may not describe the provident and the provident and income values may not describe the provident and the provident and income values may not describe the provident and the provident first the provident and the provident first the provident and the provident first the provident first the provident p

Legal & General

History in the making as curtain goes up on magic of East End music hall



Showbiz celebrities are spearheading a campaign to refurbish a London auditorium once renowned as 'the handsomest room in town'. Louise Jury reports



'People walk into this place and faint with amazement at the impact of it'

world's oldest surviving £6m of National Lottery money to restore the building to its for more than 30 years.

Trust, whose backers include Jane Asher, Roy Hudd and how much money was needed. Spike Milligan, hopes to raise the funds for the Wilton's Muand £6m. sic Hall in the East End of

The theatre was largely unactress Fiona Shaw took to its stage. The theatre director Debdecided it would be ideal for er source," Mr Daubney said. Shaw in a presentation of TS

open to the public for more than a century, drew 15,000 people to the theatre.

.The trust now hopes to capitalise on that success, applying music hall are asking for for money to pay for renovation. work which has been planned

Brian Daubney, the co-The London Music Hall ordinator, said trust members were still working out exactly

Once the building was returned to the grandeur of its opening in 1858, the aim would known except among film and be to run it as an educational television location managers foundation to teach people until earlier this year when the about music half and Victorian life. "You can learn more about Victorian society from music orah Warner saw the stage and hall than from almost any oth-

A string of entertainers have Eliot's The Waste Land: been involved in previous efforts The performances, the first to get a restoration project off

the ground. Sir John Betjeman, the poet laureate, was recruited to lead a campaign to save the building when it was on the point of demolition in 1964.

Since then, Sir Laurence Olivier, Peter Sellers and Spike Milligan have all discussed rescue plans, but to no avail. Emergency works costing around £1m have kept the hall

However, a string of film and television crews have used it as a set, including Lord Attenborough for Chaplin and Ken Russell, who filmed Vanessa Redgrave as Isadora Duncan on

The building is 40ft high and 60ft long with a high stage designed to be clearly visible over the heads of the crowds crammed into the downstairs auditorium.

But few of its East End neighbours knew it was there when the London Music Hall Trust leafleted them about its

The hall lies just a few hundred yards from the Tower of London, near Cable Street, scene of the notorious battles between Jews and Mosley's Fascists in the 1930s.

It was built by a publican.

John Wilton, alongside his pub.

known as the Mahogany Bar, and was renowned in its heyday as the "handsomest room in town". But it closed at the beginning of the 1880s when it was unable to comply with new fire regulations.

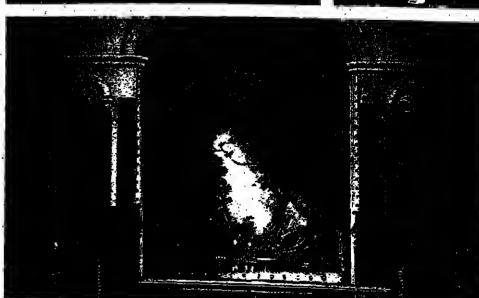
"Penple walk into this place and faint with sheer amazement at the impact of it," Mr Daubney said.



Labour of love: Brian Daubney (top), who is co-ordinating the campaign to restore the hall (above left and right) to its former glory. The interior contains an abundance of perfectly preserved period features (below) including many ornately carved wooden fittings. Bottom: Children on the specially elevated stage Photographs: David Rose







THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

23 Sailor's right about sea -

24 Sounds like an element of one's character (6)

Achievement is in actual

fact overthrown (8)

DOWN

I'd come roughly about

Dog breed of which a number patter round (7)

Pledges to join wine soci-

ety (5) Bit of time before it be-

Read over lines of draft

Allow many to adult dis-

to enclosures, inside (11)

15 Order lunch with English

tea in Switzerland (9)

16 Family man's not happy

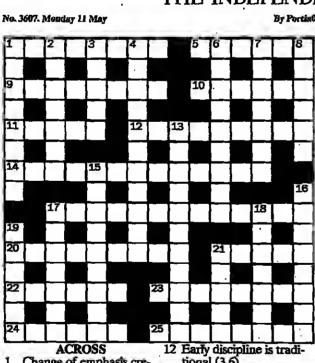
appointment (3-4)
Best friend's lost a key

and gets upset (6). 13 Can do without damage

comes antique (6,5)

it's deep (8).

average (8)



- Change of emphasis cre-
- ates distortion (8) None fooi European into
- catching wild cat (6) 9 No longer quick but a definite winner? (4,4)
- 10 Parisian one's to stay open (6)
- 11 Disregards object given in honour of cardinal (5)
- tional (3,6) 14 Dynastic motivation?
- place to be (9.4) 20 Doesn't believe result is false (9)
- 21 Scotsman's close to French city (5) 22 Imagine being in the countryside at Easter (6)
- about aggressive youth (6,7) 17 Game preserve – a fun 17 Worker's consuming green foodstuff (7) Report current rate (7)
 - 19 Declare a concern, verbally (6) 21 Measure temperature just outside (5)

dile that confounded the world's greatest minds for 358 years

'A magnificent story, told with infectious enthusiasm, If you enjoyed Dava Sobel's Longitude you will enjoy this." Evening Standard

SIMON

A riveting read, full of suspense, humour, history lessons and a nail-biting conclusion."

Fourth Estate 4th 56.89

The Times

